

Apartment From Hell - Chapter 01-13

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<http://volaretranslations.com/apartment-from-hell/ah-chapter-1/>

Chapter 1 – The Sinister Apartment

Li Yin suddenly opens his eyes.

His heart hurts intolerably, as though it is being burned in an inferno.

It is here...again?

This time, is it my turn?

Li Yin props himself up and switches on the bedside lamp. At this point, the intense pain of his heart is finally slightly relieved.

He gets off the bed and puts on his slippers. After that, he walks out of the bedroom and arrives at the living room outside, switching on the light.

He sees that thing.

On the snow white wall in the living room, a line of words written in fresh blood suddenly appears. If ordinary people see this extremely creepy scene at this moment in the middle of the night, they will be scared soulless.

But Li Yin barely responds.

“It is my turn again...”

He carefully inspects the line of words.

“From June 7th to July 7th, Year 2010, head to the Village of Tranquil Water by X city’s cityside and live there for this entire month.”

This line of creepy blood words blurs immediately after Li Yin finishes reading it. It seems like the wall is absorbing the blood. Gradually, it...disappears.

The Village of Tranquil Water...

Li Yin memorizes this name.

Although he wants to go back to bed, it is impossible to fall asleep again. So

instead, he turns on the living room lights, makes himself a cup of tea and starts to drink it. He has no habit of smoking so tea is a substitute. Perhaps coffee will achieve a better effect. But Li Yin always feels that savoring the aroma of the tea is the easiest way to calm his mood.

Looking at the reflection of his face on the surface of the tea, Li Yin grasps the cup tightly.

It has been... almost one year since he moved into this apartment.

Although one year cannot be considered long, to Li Yin it feels like countless years have already passed.

The next day, when the early morning sun just begins to rise, Li Yin who curled up by the dining table wakes up.

He fell asleep wearing only a thin pajama, covered with only a single fur blanket which might cause him to catch a cold.

The tea leftover in the teacup in front of the table is already completely cold.

He checks the wall clock in the living room. It is already... 6 a.m..

Li Yin rubs his eyes, before washing up and dressing neatly. Afterwards, he makes himself breakfast by frying an egg that he slips between two slices of bread he bought yesterday and applying a small dash of salad sauce. This will be it for today's breakfast.

Li Yin is actually very proficient at cooking. Because he has lived alone for a long time, it is necessary to learn how to cook. After so long, he has naturally learned a variety of delicious cuisines.

Biting into the homemade sandwich and then taking out the milk from the microwave, Li Yin flips opens up his planner. He begins to make plans for the next month – the month of June.

He is an web novelist. As he is quite well-known on the internet, he is already currently in a writing contract with a company. So normally, he only needs to write at home to receive pay for his manuscript to earn a living.

“It won't really be a problem.” Biting into his sandwich, he says to himself, “I'll be fine as long as I bring my notes with me in June and post new chapters of my

novel. Yeah...it's just that anything can happen during that time."

He puts down the calendar down, then chews the bread and fried egg inside of his mouth. His hands clench tightly into fists.

I must stay alive... I must come back here alive!

After putting on his clothes, he walks out of his room, but does not lock the door.

His room number on the 4th floor, room 404, is very inauspicious. But he was not the one who could make the decision on which room he wanted.

He comes down to the 1st floor of the apartment. There are no residents on the 1st floor. It is instead a huge reception room similar to that of a hotel. There are sofas and chairs placed everywhere in the reception room for people to rest.

There are 3 people sitting on one of the sofas.

Seeing Li Yin coming towards them, those three people stand up simultaneously.

One is a bespectacled tall man wearing a suit, the other is a fresh-faced young boy wearing a hat, and the last one is a young lady in a green western-styled dress with a very cute and pretty face.

"You guys... Did that line of bloody words appear on your walls as well?" Li Yin contemplates for a second, and asks.

Those three people all nod coincidentally.

They are all residents of this apartment.

"So it is like that. Then at least this time, I will have 3 teammates." Li Yin feels a bit relieved, and sits down with them.

The 4 of them have equally serious expressions.

"Li Yin... " Looking very worried, the pretty young lady in green says, "Will we really... be okay? This time, we need to stay for a whole month? And it's at a rural village that is far away from city? "

"Yeah," the bespectacled man in the suit says: "I checked the map. The boundary of X city is backed by huge mountains. It is very desolate and remote.

Not even the Hope Crew (1) can make contact with them. It is a truly primitive rural mountain village.”

“China has far too many villages.” Li Yin remains resolute. “Of such poor and primitive villages so disparate from the cities, there are definitely not just a few. Don’t think too much. Anyway, this isn’t the first time.”

“But...I’m still very...” The bespectacled young man in the suit seems to want to say something more but he is stopped by the boy in the hat.

The atmosphere once again descends abruptly into silence.

Another long period of time passes without anyone showing up. Probably, the bloody words that materialised on the walls of the house only appeared in front of the four of them.

“It’s almost seven.” Li Yin looks at his watch and says, “The three of you can head to work first. I’ll continue to wait here. If there are new members, I’ll call you guys.”

Li Yin’s calmness and acuity help them feel secure. So one by one, these 3 people stand up and leave the apartment.

Just then, Li Yin is already accessing on the internet on his phone, but he still cannot find any information on this place called the Village of Tranquil Water. But since it was already said that it is at the borders of X city, they will find it eventually.

If they cannot find it only depending on these clues, then the bloody words will provide instructions towards a more precise address.

When it is June 7th, they have to enter the Village of Tranquil Water. And before July 7th, they definitely must not leave that place by any means.

Definitely must not...

Time flies. Soon, the day has arrived.

Right now, it is 2 in the afternoon.

On the precipitous mountain road, Li Yin along with those three people, are

walking forwards step by step.

This mountain is called the “Black Crow Mountain”. After checking many times, they find the Village of Tranquil Water is to the west of this mountain. The steep slope of the mountain makes transportation to the outside world very inconvenient. Thus the village is almost isolated from the rest of the world. People sustained their lifestyles through agriculture. Without running water and even electricity, this place can be considered very destitute.

The bespectacled man in the suit is named Qin Shoutian. As he is a journalist of a small newspaper, he is constantly on the run between news scenes, so it is not that tiring for him. But the other two people — the boy in hat, Luo Hengyan, and the pretty young lady in green dress, Ye Kexin — are both ordinary white collars workers who sit in the office everyday. After hiking a couple of miles of mountain trails, their shoes have already been scuffed raw. They all feel exceptionally tired. But still, no one dares to rest. They must arrive at the Village of Tranquil Water as early as possible before the sky gets dark.

With a compass and map on his hands, Li Yin does not seem to be too exhausted.

“Li... Li Yin”, Luo Hengyan asks breathlessly, “How, how long more does it take to get there? My, my legs are about to drop off.”

“You can stop whenever you want,” Li Yin looks at the compass and says, without even turning around. “As long as you are not afraid of dying. I don’t care about leaving you behind.”

“How...how can I!” Luo Heng Yan knows Li Yin’s character well. No... actually, everyone is like this.

The residents who live in that apartment will all become indifferent towards other people’s life or death eventually. It has only been half a year since Luo Heng Yan moved into the apartment.

Passing another mountain, Li Yin’s spirits rise. Gazing towards the foot of the mountain, he says, “Quick, look! We have arrived!”

Unsurprisingly, there is a huge village. Although it looks dilapidated, the houses are not as poorly constructed as they imagined. At first glance, there are several

hundreds of houses built on a spacious piece of land, some with two storeys. Rows and rows of rice fields stretch in between the houses, and they can see a lot of farmers hard at work.

Since they have arrived, they should be safe.

The four people rush down to the foot of the mountain excitedly.

To enter the Village of Tranquil Water... That is then equivalent to completing the orders of the bloody words.

There is no one, who can violate the orders given by the bloody words.

When they arrive at the foot of the mountain, Li Yin suddenly notices a pretty farm girl passing by, carrying two buckets of water. He immediately intercepts the girl.

“Ma’am... ” Li Yin walks up to her and asks, “This place... is the Village of Tranquil Water, right?”

That farm girl seems to be around 17 or 18 years of age. With her big eyes, she looks very charming.

“Yes, that’s right. You guys...” That farm girls looks at Li Yin and asks in confusion, “Excuse me, you are...”

“We are tourists from City K. After all those walking for so long on the mountain trails, we want to take a rest in this village.”

The girl immediately brightens up as she says, “It’s so rare to actually see people from the city come here! My name is Xiu. You guys can follow me. I’ll bring you to Uncle Wang’s restaurant. Plain noodles made by Uncle Wang tastes really good since it’s made from well water”

Well water... As expected, this village seems to have no running water?

Moreover, when they were overlooking the village just now, they did not actually spot any telephone poles. It seems like this village is indeed relatively outdated.

Since that farmgirl, Xiu, is quite welcoming, Li Yin’s group decides to follows her lead.

At this moment, Li Yin's line of sight unintentionally moves to one of the buckets that Xiu carries on her back. The water in the bucket looks quite clear so it is uncertain whether it is well water or stream water.

But then...As though he has been electrocuted, Li Yin's body jerks!

From the bottom of the well, a deathly pale, pupiless woman's face abruptly emerges!

This face showed up too suddenly, giving him no time at all to react.

Li Yin immediately retreated a few steps, his heart palpitating wildly. Then he walks forwards and peeks at the bucket again... But it remains a bucket of clear water. There is nothing weird about it.

But, Li Yin knows that what he just saw was definitely not an illusion.

"Miss... Miss Xiu..." Li Yin forcefully represses the terror in his heart and says, "We, we should not bother you any more. You look quite busy carrying those buckets"

After that, without even waiting for Xiu's response, he turns his head around quickly and walks toward his three other companions with large steps, giving them a meaningful glance.

The three people understand him instantly and hurry to follow Li Yin, leaving Xiu alone. Xiu stands blankly in her original spot, wondering how she has offended them.

As they walk in the village, the group's unfamiliar faces attract many people's attention as the villagers stare at them in bewildered suspicion. Why are there tourists here despite the fact that the Black Crow Mountain does not have any ancient sites or renowned attractions?

Ye Ke xin asks Li Yin in a low voice, "Mr... Mr. Li Yin, just now...did you already see 'that thing'?"

Li Yin remains silent, only nodding his head in response.

They have long expected that it is impossible for the month to pass peacefully after they arrive in the Village of Tranquil Water. But they did not imagine that the moment they stepped foot into the village, and in day time, that such a

thing...

Li Yin looks at the sky above his head. It seems like the sun is slowly being covered by the clouds.

This time...Among the four of them, how many of them can return to the apartment in K City alive?

It has already been a year... Li Yin has experienced this kind of thing many times.

He almost died many times.

Almost died at the hands of 'those things'.

'Those things' – where they come from and why they appear is still unknown. But they are everywhere. At any time, at any place, they can kill you where you stand.

And in the whole world, the apartment in K city is the only place one can hide from 'those things'. Only in that place is their security ensured.

This, is the inviolable rule that the residents of that apartment must follow.

Footnotes:

1. The Hope Crew is China's equivalent to the Red Cross Foundation.
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<http://volaretranslations.com/apartment-from-hell/ah-chapter-2/>

Chapter 2 – Entrance

Everything started on that day last year.

Thinking about it right now feels like a nightmare.

After graduating from college, Li Yin disregarded his parents' opposition and became a web novelist. He certainly did not do it for his dreams, his ambitions or other such reasons. It was purely because he knew he could earn money by working in this industry.

It is rare that people write web novels for a living, but Li Yin is one of those people. Actually, the pay he receives from his manuscripts is not too high, barely enough to sustain himself. Moreover, his works might fall in popularity in the future. In this age, there are too many readers who prefer new novels and forget about the old ones. Especially since most web novels now are simply indulgent "fast-food" reads, the majority of readers merely use them to provide some seasoning to daily life.

Li Yin was once very lost on the road of life. He always felt like there was no direction in his future. He lived alone in a rented house in K city, switched on his computer to write everyday as soon as he woke up and even did his daily shopping online. Slowly but surely, he converged into an "otaku".

He always had a nagging feeling that his life had entered a very strained path.

Then, that one day...

In the end, he was too naive after all. Although he knew that this day would come sooner or later, he had thought that he could at least accumulate some money to invest in the stock market and maybe even start a business in the future.

However, reality was not so not simple.

To search for jobs? He had no working experience. Nowadays, which company

can overlook the lack of experience? Since freshly graduated college students are as plenty as blackberries, someone like him would simply not receive any attention at all.

Li Yin's brows furrowed more and more tightly as he clenched a Jobs Weekly magazine between his fingers.

As he plodded on and on, he had already unknowingly entered a certain neighbourhood and walked into a small alley.

"Nevertheless...I should find a job first." Li Yin could not bear to do such a thing as going back home and begging his parents. Even if he exhausted all his energy, he needed to get over this hardship by himself.

But still...if he continued to owe his rent for this month, then he would be kicked out of his house by the landlord.

He had moved out from his house and lived alone initially because he and his parents possessed contradictory sets of beliefs. He hoped that one day, he could become successful and return home proudly. Yet... now, he had become like this.

As he walked, he suddenly felt an intense chill run down his lower back.

He moved the Jobs Weekly magazine he was holding in front of his face. Under the sun's rays, he saw the shadow cast on the ground in front of him...

But still, he continued to hold the job magazine in front of him.

Following that, he saw his shadow undergo a horrifying change.

Although Li Yin was clearly standing stock still at the moment, the shadow underneath his feet started to move. The shadow broke free from Li Yin's feet and shifted on the ground towards the corner of the alley!

Li Yin was instantly flabbergasted! It took a few seconds for him to gather his thoughts.

Right now, he had no shadow!

His mind completely blank with shock, Li Yin recklessly sprinted in the direction that the shadow fled towards. As the shadow moved with lightning speed in this alley with so many twists and turns, Li Yin exhausted his energy to catch up with it.

Finally, after he had crossed another alleyway, Li Yin saw his shadow enter a piece of spacious land. In the middle of this vast and empty land, there was a very tall apartment.

That apartment seemed to contain more than 20 storeys. It occupied a large area of land, around 200 meters by 200 meters. The walls were white and along the exterior of the building, there were rows of orderly balconies.

But there was something off about this apartment.

It was already precisely noon and the sun was shining down directly from above. And yet this huge apartment...did not cast even a trace of shadow on the ground!

How was this possible?

Li Yin rubbed his eyes rigorously, strongly suspicious that he was dreaming.

But the scene in front of him was undoubtedly the truth.

There was a revolving door located at the entrance of the first floor of the apartment. Li Yin's shadow moved along the earth towards that revolving door, and automatically passed through it.

At this moment, Li Yin recalled the many ghost stories that he had heard when he was little.

He was only around thirty meters away from the apartment. But this seemingly ordinary apartment felt as though it was a man-eating monster. As though at any moment, it would swallow him whole.

But, for some reason, he was still walking towards that apartment.

It was like there was something summoning him.

When he arrived in front of the revolving gate, Li Yin extended his hand, pushed the glass panels of the gate and walked inside.

His eyes were greeted by the sight of a spacious lobby. The floor was paved by shiny clean marble. A crystal chandelier hung from the ceiling. On the left side of the lobby, there was a flight of stairs. And on the right side, there were three elevators.

He saw his shadow drift along the ground towards the front of an elevator. Right after that, the elevator doors opened and the shadow floated inside. The elevator doors then shut tightly.

Li Yin rushed to the front of the elevator doors, staring at the elevator's electronic screen nervously.

The elevator stopped on the 4th floor.

Li Yin hurried to another elevator and pressed the button twice. The doors opened slowly. He shot inside as fast as an arrow and pushed the button that indicated the fourth floor.

As the floor numbers increased, Li Yin's heart rate also increased.

My shadow... My shadow...

Li Yin had a strong feeling inside his heart that if he lost his shadow, then something terrible would happen to him.

Finally, the elevator stopped at the fourth floor. As soon as the elevator doors opened, he walked out immediately and found himself standing in a long hallway.

Although the long hallway was brightly lit, the further down the hallway he walked, the more intense his feeling of deep seclusion was. Both sides of the hallway were lined with door after door. Each door was marked with a number, "411", "410", "412" and so on.

When Li Yin got to the "404" room door, he suddenly noticed his shadow float out from the gap underneath the door as it attached itself once again to Li Yin's feet.

But even then, the shadow was doing something that Li Yin was not.

It seemed like the right hand of the shadow had grasped something, but it was impossible to see clearly what it is. After that, the shadow dropped that thing into the pocket of its pants. When it had completed this action, its hands dropped to its sides and it became motionless.

Li Yin hesitantly waved his right arm. To his surprise, the shadow was now also following the waving motion of his right hand.

Had his shadow...returned?

At that moment, he put his right hand into the pocket of his pants where the shadows placed the thing and touched a very hard object.

It was a key.

The key looked pretty normal except for the number “404” that had been carved on it. Thus, Li Yin turned his gaze towards the door to Room 404 in front of him and shakily inserted the key into the keyhole. With a slight spin of the key, the door opened.

He walked into Room 404.

What greeted him was a relatively large living room furnished with a coffee table, a sofa, a cabinet and a television. Attached to the TV were a karaoke box and a stereo that looked like a rather expensive one in the market. Next to the TV, there was a large window that connected the room to a balcony.

After carefully looking around, he saw that there were two bedrooms, a study room, a bathroom and a kitchen. Furthermore, every room was well decorated. Most furniture were sparkling new and originated from famous brands. This room was around 70 or 80 square meters. With current housing prices, even if this was a second hand apartment room, it still could not possibly be cheap. At least, with his current income, he could not even dream of affording such a luxurious room.

This... Just what was happening here?

“Are... Are you a new resident?”

Li Yin turned around immediately after hearing this voice. A pretty young girl in a green western-styled dress walked into his line of sight.

“Who... Who are you?” Li Yin asked cautiously, his danger senses working overtime.

“D-Don’t be scared.” The young girl waved her hands hurriedly and said, “I... I am the same as you... My shadow also suddenly disappeared on its own and ran into this apartment. Then I became a resident of this apartment. You also got the key, right?”

Li Yin was dumbstruck as he immediately took out the key. As he strode towards the young girl, he asked, "What's going on here? What ...what exactly is this apartment?"

"Since you are the new resident, I should follow our rules and bring you to our residential representative. He was elected by all of us. When you meet him, he will explain your situation and then he will record your arrival."

"Residential... representative?"

"There are currently 39 residents living in this apartment. With you, there will be 40 of us. We have all been forcefully restricted by this apartment, so we have no choice but to live here."

Li Yin felt sudden outrage surge within him. "Are you kidding me? There's no way I'm going to live in this creepy place! "

That young girl laughed bitterly and said, "Well, you don't have a choice... When I first entered this apartment, I was also very scared. But there really is no choice. As soon as our shadows enter this apartment and that key is given to us, it means that we are the residents of this apartment. And then....there is no longer any way to escape from here."

As she said this, the young lady's expression turned tormented.

"There...There's no escape?" Li Yin felt the situation becoming more and more sinister by the minute and asked, "Why is there no escape?"

"In the past, there were residents who were selected but chose to not live in this apartment. Those people will eventually be killed by their own shadows."

"W-what?"

Li Yin's eyes immediately widened as he stood there, aghast.

"This...is a joke, right?"

"Did you not see what happened just now? That shadow was completely controlled by this apartment. Normally, your shadow is under your control and will do whatever you do, but if you do anything thing that is against the rules here, your shadow will control your body to force you to commit suicide. I've lived in this apartment for two years... I've seen many people who were forced to

kill themselves by their shadows because they have violated the apartment's regulations. ”

People were conversely being controlled by their own shadows?

This claim was entirely preposterous but Li Yin could not refute it, because he had just witnessed the unusual change of his shadow with his very own eyes.

Li Yin was starting to feel that this apartment completely exceeded the boundaries of common sense.

“Who...who built this apartment? In fact, why were we chosen to be the residents?”

That young woman shook her head and said, “I don't know... I have been thinking about this question many times over the past two years, but I just can't understand. I seriously don't understand! This apartment itself is beyond human logic! But there is only one thing that we can be certain of. We will not be able to see who built this apartment. And as for the non-residents, this apartment does not exist in this world.”

“W-what do you meant by that?”

“Did you pass by an alley to get here?”

“Yeah, I did...”

“In reality, that alley should be a dead end. Only people who have been chosen as residents can pass through that alley and enter this apartment. The land that is occupied by this apartment does not exist. This land does not exist!”

“Does not...exist?”

Li Yin looked at the balcony outside the window. He could clearly see the orderly rows of skyscrapers outside.

“We can see the world outside. But, the outside world does not see us.” The young girl saw through Li Yin's doubt and explained to him, “When you leave this apartment and walk out of the alley, you will also not be able to see it. No one, excepts the residents of this apartment knows that such a building exists in this world.”

But this apartment's existence is ultimately undeniable.

And the moment he stepped inside, it was as though he stepped foot on an extremely dangerous and terrifying road of no return...

<http://volaretranslations.com/apartment-from-hell/ah-chapter-3/>

Chapter 3 – The Rule of The Bloody Words

It is said that it is hard to calculate the history of this apartment's existence. Moreover, there were quite a number of residents living in this apartment. Over several decades, the residents have already shared their experiences and made tacit agreements. They understand what they are allowed to do and what is forbidden; what is beneficial and what is harmful for themselves.

Thus every time a new resident moves in, the old residents will inform him of the detailed set of precautions. If they do not make these precautions clear, then the newbies are likely to violate the prohibitions and perish without even a burial ground.

There are very two basic rules. Once you become a resident of this apartment, then you have to obey these two rules no matter what.

The first one is the most basic one: You cannot leave the apartment continuously for more than 48 hours except for when the bloody words instruct you to leave. If you violate this rule, then you will die.

Second, after becoming a resident, you must obey the instructions from the bloody words once they appear on the wall in your room. If you violate this rule even slightly, then you will also die.

Li Yin saw with his very own eyes, residents who had refused to believe these two rules and disregarded the instructions of the bloody words to leave the protection of the apartment. These residents had all ultimately perished from unnatural causes.

There is no exception!

Ye Kexin is the resident of room 403, Li Yin's neighbor. In addition, Luo Hengyan is the resident of room 507. He has been living here for half a year, persisting in staying alive through two missions assigned by the bloody words.

And Qin Shoutian who has lived here for more than nine months has already completed three missions.

The instructions left by the bloody words normally direct residents to specific destinations where they will accomplish particular acts. And during that time period, there will certainly be countless incomparably eerie circumstances.

More often than not, people don't realise they are dying until they are already six feet under. And even when they have already perished, they don't even notice the fact that they are dead.

It might sound inconvincible, or even unimaginable. But these were all indisputable facts.

At that time, it also took Li Yin quite a long time to completely accept everything. After all, this sudden succession of events just seemed too unrealistic. But back then, Li Yin did not have the courage to leave the apartment for more than 48 hours. At the very least, such an action is equivalent to committing suicide.

Finally, he borrowed some money from the other residents, cleared up his rent dues and moved into this apartment.

Most residents in the apartment are basically the same as Li Yin since they all stepped into the apartment while chasing their shadows that had automatically entered this apartment. Xia Yuan, the residential representative, has been living in the apartment for the longest time.

Xia Yuan is a young, bespectacled man with an air of scholarly refinement. The time he has been living in this apartment has exceeded five years. He told the all the residents that if they wanted to continue surviving in this apartment, the only chance to stay alive is to flee back to the apartment when the set time constraint ends. No matter what occurred at the designated destination, no matter what kind of curse was suffered, once the residents flee back to the apartment, they will be free from all danger. Afterwards, when they leave again after entering the apartment, they need not worry about being hurt. Until...the next emergence of the bloody words.

Throughout this year, Li Yin has seen first-hand the consequences that befell the people who chose not to live in the apartment even though they were

selected because they distrusted what the residents told them. He once went to persuade those people to move into the apartment immediately, but had been carelessly dismissed. In the end, when 48 hours had passed, Li Yin saw all their shadows begin to change one by one. The shadows either controlled them to jump off buildings or used a knife to force them to commit suicide. The most miserable one of them all was manipulated so that he ran into a cross junction and got ground to death into meat paste under the wheels of a passing car. Ever since he witnessed that scene, for the next three months, Li Yin felt like throwing up whenever he saw meat.

The instructions given by the bloody words normally increase in difficulty. The first mission is usually relatively harmless, so the probability of staying alive is quite high. But starting from the second mission, the level of danger and ominousness gradually increases. And when the third time...the fourth time came, one would need to give it his all just to keep himself alive.

The emergence of the bloody instructions are usually set months apart from one another but according to the old residents' experiences, there has never been more than half a year during which there were no missions assigned in the whole apartment. When bloody instructions emerge in the room, the resident's heart will happen to feel like it is burning. This way, even if the residents are not in their rooms, they will realize immediately that those bloody words have appeared. Once the resident has read and memorized the bloody words, they will vanish.

The bloody words will never instruct the residents to do impossible missions so for example, actions like asking the residents to go to the moon will never appear. All the instructions are physically feasible.

Finally, there is one conclusion summarized according to the old residents' decades of experience.

That is... there is only one way to leave this apartment.

That is... The resident needs to stay alive to complete the missions designated by ten bloody word instructions consecutively. Then he can regain his freedom and leave the apartment without worrying about being killed.

Of course, the word "consecutively" is totally redundant because the only way

to successfully complete a mission is to stay alive and return to the apartment. If one is dead, then naturally he cannot follow the next bloody instructions. As a result the room occupied by the dead will become uninhabited and new bloody word instructions will not appear until the next new resident moves in.

Up to this point, Li Yin has already completed three bloody word instructions. And executing the last bloody mission was so dangerous that the chances of dying compared to living was nine to one. The contents of the mission had been simple enough — they had to go to the fifth floor of a certain abandoned school building and stay there till the clock precisely struck twelve midnight. At that time, including himself, there were six people who received those bloody instructions. And that night, as soon as it reached midnight, everyone had to sprint out to flee from the school. However, no matter which direction they went, they wound up finding themselves at dead end alleys! And as they tried to escape, they would also find that the comrades who had been by their sides just a while ago had suddenly turned into unrecognisable piles of blood and bones.

In the end, Li Yin gritted his teeth and jumped onto a tree from a window before climbing down and drove away in a car that belonged to his dead teammate. Stepping as hard as he could on the accelerator, he fled back to the apartment.

Although Li Yin learned how to drive, he did not have a license. And that car was a considerably new model, so it was quite troublesome for him to drive back to the apartment's neighborhood.

But... at that moment when he got off the car, he felt a hand grabbing onto his feet!

When he stumbled and fell to the ground, he saw... a small child wearing a school uniform with a deathly pale visage whose body was sticking to the bottom of the car!

Li Yin made a split second decision. He immediately pulled his foot out from his shoe, and then ran desperately into that small alley.

In order to train his running speed, Li Yin forces himself to go to the gym everyday. The other residents of the apartment also train together with him, and in the end, almost everyone's speed is comparable to the speed of professional

long distance runners.

But... no matter how fast he ran, that child who looked like a student kept getting closer and closer! Every time Li Yin turned his head around, he would see that the child was approaching him. The more haunting thing was that the boy was merely walking. How could it be that this boy could catch up with the rapid pace at which he was running?!

Finally, when he was only ten meters away from the apartment, he saw Xia Yuan and a bunch of residents waiting for him at the revolving gate.

“Hurry up! Li Yin!” That time, even the normally refined Xia Yuan was screaming his name out desperately, “Only ten meters and you’ll be safe. Hurry up!”

Afterwards, according to Xia Yuan, by the time they saw him, that ghost was only two meters apart from him.

In the last ten meters, Li Yin was already sprinting as fast as he could. But at the same time, that ghost had already minimized the distance between the two of them. It opened its arms wide, ready to grip Li Yin in its embrace.

But even so, Xia Yuan and the rest could not run to rescue Li Yuan. After all, leaving the apartment will compromise their own safety.

At the last second, Li Yin suddenly shot forward with a burst of energy. He roared in anger, sprinted straight to the revolving door, pushed the gates open and entered vigorously. While this was happening, the hands of that ghost child were already touching both sides of his waist.

After Li Yin entered the apartment, that ghost could not do anything to him anymore. It lingered in front of the door for a good while, before its body became a stream of smoke and disappeared slowly.

After that incident, when Li Yin lifted hem of his shirt, he was horrified to discover that... there was a tiny black handprint on both sides of his waist. It took quite a long time for those prints to completely disappear.

It has been two months since that incident, and he is currently on this mission.

This is the fourth time he will execute a bloody mission.

For sure... the level of danger will be greatly increased.

This village is much bigger than all of them could have imagined.

However, there aren't any inns available for people to live in. This is quite natural.

Of course, according the bloody words' instructions, they have to "live" here. If they leave the borders of the Village of Tranquil Water, then that counts as violating the instructions from the bloody words.

This village is surrounded by mountains, and the surrounding terrain is craggy and perilous. There is a very long river cutting through the village, which has become the most reliable source of water. With this water source, people in the village can water their plantations and lead self-sustainable lives in the midst of these secluded mountains.

The plants growing in the fields were mostly rice stalks. Even children under ten years old will bare their feet and help to sow the field, their faces covered in mud and water.

After walking for some distance, there is finally a middle-aged man who comes up to them and asks, "Are you gentlemen... from the city?"

Those children also look at Li Yin's group with curiosity. After all, it is rare for them to see someone from the city in the middle of this mountain. Amongst them, there are many who have never seen lights, television and other similar electronics.

Li Yin vaguely feels that there is a slight sense of hostility mixed in that middle-aged man's tone.

"If you all are the journalists sent here to interview for that incident, please leave immediately!" While saying this, the middle aged man glares at them with wide eyes. "After so many years, why do you still cling to this incident without letting go?!"

Li Yin's heart suddenly leaps. This incident?

Could it be that there is some connection to the bloody words?

Li Yin hurriedly waves his hands as he says, "No, sir. This is a misunderstanding.

We are just ordinary tourists who want to stay in your respected village. Don't worry, we will pay."

These years, there have actually been experienced backpackers who travel on their own to some wild, barren places without following travel routes provided by travel agencies. However, since this Black Crow Mountain does not count as a travel spot, normally there will not be any tourists who come here.

The middle aged man clearly does not believe in Li Yin's words.

"Nonsense! All of you better get the hell out. Don't think you can trick me!"

That middle aged man gradually gets more agitated but Li Yin knows very clearly... that under no circumstances can he leave this village. According to the bloody instructions, he has to stay in this village for a month. Otherwise...

He will die!

The instructions given by the bloody words must be followed. Li Yin has already carved this notion into his bones and heart.

"What exactly is making so much noise?"

A hoarse old voice resounds. Following that, people scatter as an old man with graying hair walks slowly towards the group, supported by a young lady of around 20 years of age.,

"Village Elder..."

"Village Elder, they are from the city. They must have come because of the Li Bing incident!"

"Yeah! That must be it!"

That old man who looks to be around 80 years old hobbles towards Li Yin's group and says, "Young folks, for what reason have you come to this place?"

Li Yin quickly steps forward and salutes him. He says, "A pleasure to meet you, Village Elder. We only came into this mountain to tour for fun. We really want to experience farmhouse customs, so we hope to live in this village. Please don't worry, we will not stay for free. "

"Oh? Experiencing farmhouse customs? Sounds pretty interesting." The village

elder seems to be contemplating about something. He then says, “Alright, then all of you can live in my house!”

Li Yin is momentarily stunned. This Village Elder...has actually agreed so easily?

“Village elder, you... How can you just let these people with unknown backgrounds go to your house? ” That middle aged man utters immediately, “They must be reporters!”

“It does not matter,” that village elder instead says very tolerantly. “It has been a while since visitors last came to our Village of Tranquil Water. Since these guests are already here, how can we not treat them well?”

These words from the Village Elder raises some suspicions in Li Yin’s heart. Could it be that the Village Elder has some other plans?

But, as long as they can stay here, everything else... could be neglected.

To be honest, Li Yin still gets a headache thinking about the problem of fleeing back to the apartment on the 7th day of the next month. This kind of mountain slope, driving will be even slower than walking so they will have to flee on foot. But on these arduous mountains, between the four of them, how many can actually survive if they are being chased? Last time, amongst the six residents, Li Yin was the only one who survived!

Thus, Li Yin decides to get to the bottom of this mystery. What exactly... is the true face of the vicious power existing in this Village of Tranquil Water? Maybe then, he can come up with a countermeasure!

<http://volaretranslations.com/apartment-from-hell/ah-chapter-4/>

Chapter 4 – Water

Li Yin still remembers the warning that Xia Yuan gave right before they departed from the apartment.

“Starting from the fourth bloody mission, invisible danger lurks everywhere. In order to stay alive, you must observe your surroundings cautiously to identify any patterns. You cannot dismiss even the smallest unnatural thing. It’s been awhile since the last time someone stayed alive past their third bloody instructions, so I hope you can continue to survive.”

And there was one thing that he emphasised—

“Don’t believe in anyone’s words. Don’t even believe in yourself because your eyes will trick you. Even when you are walking along the side of a sharp cliff, you will still feel as though you are walking on flat ground. ”

Li Yin firmly carves those words in his mind. He won’t even dare to relax for one second.

And the village elder’s invitation is extremely “unnatural”.

“I am the head of this village. My last name is Zhang.” That village elder who is being supported by the young woman, led Li Yin’s four people group towards his house.

“Elder Zhang,” Ye Ke Xin, a step ahead, asks, “Why... are you willing to let us stay?”

“Haha,” That elder instead gives a mysterious smile and says, “I am different from those unenlightened calcified fossils. The Village of Tranquil Water cannot continue to develop in this restricted and stagnated manner inside of this big mountain. Don’t be nervous. You can stay as long as you want.”

The young girl who is supporting him says abruptly, “Grandfather, is this... really okay? Coincidentally, tomorrow is Bing Er’s commemoration day. At this

timing...”

Bing Er’s commemoration day?

Li Yin’s heart instantly plunged.

Tomorrow is the day that they will officially start living in the Village of Tranquil Water according to the instructions from the apartment’s bloody words. And that Bing Er, is she the “Li Bing” that was just mentioned?

Right on the commemoration day....

Even if you beat Li Yin to death, he will still not believe that this is merely a coincidence.

The elder’s house is quite grand and actually has the feel of a western style terrace. The house is three storeys high with an exterior of reinforced concrete, different from the other houses that are mostly constructed from cement.

Since this is not the time to be courteous, Li Yin’s group directly enters the elder’s home.

Of course, the elder is also very cautious. He brings them to his room. After sitting down, he asks his granddaughter to leave first and shut the door tightly before he inquires, “Now, can you tell me your names?”

After all, they are people with unclear backgrounds so the Village Elder needs a better understanding of them.

Li Yin answers, “I am Li Yin. This is Qin Shoutian, Luo Hengyan, Ye Kexin....”

At this moment, the door opens suddenly and a young man with a buzzcut walks in, glancing at Li Yin’s group aloofly. He says to the elder, “Grandfather... I heard from the villagers that you are really bringing this group of unidentified outsiders to live here? Is this really true? ”

“Ah Wu! Where are your manners?! ” Elder Zhang scolds him angrily, “Why do I need your permission on who I invite over!”

But that young man Ah Wu does not back down and says, “Grandfather, it is your freedom to invite whoever you want to. But I just cannot get used to seeing

this bunch of dubious people running around inside of the village! ”

At this moment, the hot-tempered Luo Hengyan became enraged. He stands up abruptly and says, “Just who are these dubious ones you’re referring to?”

Li Yin also stands up immediately and whispers, “Are you thinking straight? Is this the right moment to fuss about these small things? ” He then tries to defuse the situation with a smile, “This gentleman, we are just here to experience the farm life. We have absolutely no hostile intentions. We will leave after living here for a month.”

“A month?” That young man named Ah Wu furiously says, “You actually want to live here for such a long time? Piss off! I am telling you, all these ghostly sightings are merely the stories of cowards. That Li Bing committed suicide. Even the police department ended this case. Why are people are still trying to dig up this case, lost in their phantom fantasies? It’s like trying to chase wind and catch shadows!”

Suicide?

This actually surprises Li Yin a little.

But this is still nerve-wracking. Everyone has seen horror movies, and it is a common plot that people who commit suicide will eventually become ghosts.

Ah Wu’s incensed gaze actually assuages Li Yin’s suspicion that... these “ghostly sightings” are not merely attempts at chasing wind and catching shadows.

“Enough, Ah Wu!” Elder Zhang strikes the floor with his cane forcefully and says, “Go back to your room! Mr. Li and his group are my guests. How can you be this rude to guests?!”

“Hn!” Ah Wu ignored his words. “Grandfather, are you seriously letting them live here for a month? Do you even know anything about their backgrounds? ”

Elder Zhang waves his cane and hits right at Ah Wu! The cane is too sudden for Ah Wu dodge and his shoulder suffers a heavy strike.

“Get back to your room!” Just as Elder Zhang lost his temper, he suddenly starts to cough.

Li Yin can not understand.

Why would he hit his own grandchild for a few strangers? Just what is this elder planning?

The level of “unnaturalness” is getting more and more intense.

That Ah Wu glares at Li Yin’s group angrily and says, “Let’s see how much longer you guys can be so cocky!” Then he rushes out of the room, running into the chest of a middle aged woman.

“Ah Wu! What are you doing?!” That middle age woman palms her forehead. “Rampaging around so recklessly?”

“Ma, go ask grandfather yourself!” Ah Wu then runs outside and that middle age woman chases after him immediately.

“Sorry for exposing all of you to such embarrassment,” Elder Zhang shuts the door immediately, says, “Everyone please don’t be offended... Feel free to stay, just stay.”

Li Yin can feel that there seems to be some intention hidden behind the elder’s invitation.

What is it?

There are four people living in Elder Zhang’s house — he himself, his daughter Zhang Yinglan, the middle aged woman from just now, his grandson Zhang Hongwu and his granddaughter Zhang Suyue, that young girl who supported him. The elder’s son-in-law passed away three years ago.

Judging from Ah Wu’s temper, Li Yin believes that it is inappropriate for everyone to eat together so he suggests that instead of bothering the elder, they will cook dinner by themselves. They brought a lot of food just in case anyway.

To Li Yin’s surprise, the elder does not insist, agreeing easily after hearing Li Yin’s words.

The night gets dark.

The rapid water currents flows along the waterfall and pours down violently. Ah Xiu treads through the water, stepping towards the waterfall.

“Sister Bing Er...” At this moment, her face is drowned in tears.

At the same time, near the elder’s house, there lives the middle age man who troubled Li Yin’s group earlier. He is called Yan Haotian, a very forthright man within the village, a fairly popular figure with quite a some influence over the other villages. As of now, he is unmarried and living alone.

“What was the Village Elder thinking...”

At this time, it is almost 12 o’ clock midnight. But Yan Haotian still finds it hard to fall asleep.

Logically speaking, it is almost summer, but he feels cold all over his body so he covers himself with an extra blanket. Even so, he continues to huddle and shiver in his bed.

All of a sudden, he feels a sense of wetness inside his blankets. He does not pay it much attention in the beginning, but later, he begins to feel like the whole blanket is immersed in water.

Yan Haotian immediately sits up and flips his sheets open. Without knowing when, his whole bed is completely soaked by water.

He immediately sits up. When his feet touch the floor... the floor is also submerged in water!

“What...What is going on?”

He begins to feel alarmed.

The room is very dark. Since there are no electric lights, he cannot distinguish directions at all. He has to feel his way forward. Since he has been living here for a long time, he is already familiar and does not knock against any furniture.

He touches the drawers and finds that the top is covered in water. He pulls the drawer open, takes out a kerosene lamp and a box of matches.

After igniting the lamp, he feels slightly more at peace.

It is now past 12 o’ clock midnight.

Time has passed into the 7th day of June.

Yan Haotian walks out of the bedroom and checks the outside. He realizes that

the amount of water accumulated on the floor is quite severe.

“Did it just thunderstorm?”

But outside the window, the bright moon hangs in the sky. Where was there a single trace of rain?

Soon, he senses that the water is dripping down from the ceiling.

Yan Haotian raises the kerosene lamp and takes a look. As expected, there is indeed water on the ceiling.

But... at the same instant as he sees this scene, his soul is almost scared away.

How...How is this possible?

On the snow white ceiling, there are actually rows of footprints being left behind! Footprints made out from water!

One can clearly see the five toes on each footprint. But how could anyone walk upside down on the ceiling.

Yan Haotian gathers his thoughts and bites his lower lip as he looks at the footprints on the ceiling. Those footprints even extend into his kitchen.

Although he was terrified, Yan Haotian still wants to see for himself. Maybe he can find some explanations behind this creepy phenomenon.

His whole body shaking like a leaf, he gradually walks towards the kitchen.

That kitchen is not very big so with one glance, he could see the entire room. There is no place at all capable of hiding a person.

Except for that big dish cabinet.

And the footprints on the ceiling, stretches unexpectedly to the top of the dish cabinet. And then moves to the wall that the dish cabinet againsts.

“This... is not possible.”

Yan Haotian raises the kerosene lamp high and walks towards the dish cabinet slowly. Every step he takes is like stepping on thin ice.

When he finally reaches the front of the cabinet, he grasps the dish cabinet's door with his left hand and takes a deep breath.

“No... It has nothing to do with me... Li Bing, you killed yourself. I never harmed you so d-don't come to bother me...”

Then, he abruptly flings open the door of the dish cabinet!

Under the glow of the kerosene lamp, what greets his eyes is—

Some neatly arranged bowls and soup spoons.

Everything is quite normal.

“Haaa—”

Yan Haotian feels as though he is about to pass out before eventually relaxing a bit. After all, he is only scaring himself.

But what is happening with the footprints on the ceiling? Is someone playing a prank? But there is no one in the village who has a conflict with him. Also, with only the water dripping from the footprints, can there be so much accumulated on the floor?

Anyways, he has to scoop out the water first. Otherwise there is no way for him to sleep.

Thus, he shuts the dish cabinet's door and decides to begin scooping out the water with a washbasin.

But precisely at that instant the door was about to close completely...

A hand without a trace of the colour of blood reaches out from within the cabinet and holds the door open!

Faster than Yan Haotian can respond, another hand reaches out and grabs onto his neck. Following that, the door opens fully and the body of Yan Haotian is dragged into the cabinet!

The dish cabinet door slams shut heavily. For a long time, nothing happens. Instead, the accumulated water soaks into the ground as though it is being absorbed before disappearing entirely.

A gust of wind comes this way, blowing the cabinet door open again. Inside, there are only the same old bowls and soup spoons, arranged in neat rows.

<http://volaretranslations.com/apartment-from-hell/ah-chapter-5/>

Chapter 5 – Ah Xiu

Li Yin looks at the bright moon outside of the window. When the hour hand of his watch passes the 12 o'clock mark, it will mean that they have already been manacled to this village. They can only leave after a month, at midnight on July 8th.

A month... that is truly very rare.

In terms of the instructions the bloody word usually give.

Li Yin can still remember it clearly... what happened the first time that Ye Kexin brought him to see Xia Yuan.

His first impression was— This isn't right, is it? Is he really the man who has lived in this horrifying place for four years (last year was Xia Yuan's fourth year)?

Wearing a pair of frameless glasses and a well ironed suit, a tall and lanky figure, a kind and scholarly face, this man looked... No matter how hard he tried, Li Yin was unable to reconcile this appearance with the image of the residential representative he had in mind.

"You are the new resident?" Back then, Xia Yuan accepted him easily as though it was a normal, habitual occurrence.

"Yes, Mr. Xia. I..."

"Don't say anything." Xia Yuan immediately gestured for him to sit down in his room and then told Ye Kexin, "Kexin, go inform everyone about the new resident."

At that time, Kexin was looking at Xia Yuan, her face red like the color of ripened apples. She could not even bring herself to look at him directly. Nodding her head shyly, she left.

Xia Yuan's room was about the same size as Li Yin's. However, the interior

design was a bit more minimalist in comparison.

“Don’t be too nervous,” Xia Yuan smiled and said, “Everyone who enters this apartment for the first time will feel very lost. And when I tell them the truth, they will all feel as though the world is collapsing around them. They find it hard to accept and believe that this is happening to them.”

“Up... Up to this point, I’m confused about everything here.” Li Yin palmed his forehead and said, “Mr. Xia... I... Do I really need to stay here from now on?”

“Would you like some coffee or tea?” Xia Yuan did not answer directly, but instead took a china cup out of the cupboard. He said, “Here I have the Pre-rain Longjing. As for coffee, all of it is imported from Colombia and Brazil. My parents shipped them to me from other countries.”

“Coffee... I have always felt that type of thing is no different from traditional Chinese medicine,” Li Yin said with a bitter smile, “Yes, tea will be fine. Right, don’t add wolfberries.”

“Alright, do you want some chrysanthemum?”

“Sure.”

Xia Yuan looked about 24 or 25 years old, just a little bit older than Li Yin. But the way he does things was with a manner of maturity and experience. After he finished making the tea, he passed it to Li Yin warmly. Then he said, “Please try to believe what I’m about to say next. I can promise you that I will definitely not lie. But I also cannot guarantee how much you are able to accept.”

“I, I understand.”

Following that, Xia Yuan told Li Yin everything.

After Xia Yuan finished speaking, Li Yin’s expression was astonished to the extreme. He simply could not wrap his head around such bizarre sounding words.

But... they were undeniably true. He already tried walking out of the alley before looking back at this place. As expected, this apartment had disappeared completely.

This is indeed an incomprehensibly strange building.

“I understand what you’re feeling at this moment, but... I have to tell you this: you will die if you leave this apartment for more than 48 hours. If you don’t believe my words, I can show you some recordings. In order for people to believe this rule, previously I...”

“I trust you,” Li Yin accepted his words quite easily. “So... when you guys are at the destination appointed by the bloody words, you’ve all met...you’ve met...”

“Yes.” Xia Yuan did not beat around the bush. His face had also turned a bit pale. “I am sorry to say that after I entered this apartment, I am no longer an atheist.”

“The existence of...spirits?” Li Yin’s hands started to shake uncontrollably.

Xia Yuan pushed his glasses up his nose bridge and said, “When I look back at the past, how I’ve been able to stay alive till today is nothing but a nightmare. Just simply remembering it makes me doubt how I endured everything till now.”

At this point, Li Yin asked a question that he had been thinking about for a while.

“You just said that normally, the apartment will not allow the time between two bloody missions to exceed half a year. Then...for one resident, how long might the instructions given to him be separated?”

“That’s hard to say,” Xia Yuan continued. “At first they will be relatively fast. Every few months there will be a new emergence of the bloody words. But then the later it gets, the longer the gap between missions becomes. I have already completed five bloody missions. And from my last bloody mission till now, it has almost been a year...”

“Then... doesn’t that mean that under the circumstances where there are no instructions released, we have to live here forever?”

“Yes. It can’t be helped. The saying that you can only leave after completing ten bloody missions was what I heard from the old residents when I just moved in. And later on, all of those old residents have already died.”

Clearly, it seemed that from today onwards, Li Yin would also have to live in this apartment for a long time.

After that, Xia Yuan introduced Li Yin to every resident in the apartment.

The following people left a profound impression on Li Yin. The couple, Hua Liancheng and Yi Ye who lives in room 706. They seemed very young, maybe freshly graduated from college. They moved into this apartment a year earlier than Li Yin did, and the three of them got along very well. Two other people were also unforgettable to him.

Tang Wenshan who lives in room 502. And Odagiri Sachiko who lives in room 402.

Tang Wenshan is a gloomy, quiet young man with very cold eyes. Whenever he looked at other people, there would always be a cynical expression on his face. On the other hand, Odagiri Sachiko is an international student from Japan who came to China for college. She speaks Chinese very well. But her calm and serene expression always makes her thoughts incomprehensible to other people. Another reason Sachiko left such a deep impression on Li Yin is because he thinks that she is inhumanly beautiful, like a classic gothic lolita.

After Li Yin began to live in the apartment, he would naturally run into his neighbor Odagiri Sachiko quite often. At first, he hoped to establish a good relationship with these experienced residents, but unlike the friendly Ye Kexin, Odagiri Sachiko always gives people an unapproachable impression. Whenever she is free, she can always be seen holding the Japanese edition of [The Tale of Genji].

Li Yin remembers that when he was leaving yesterday, he went with Ye Kexin to Odagiri Sachiko's room to say goodbye. But she remained icy cold and did not say a single word the whole time.

On the other hand, the Hua Liancheng couple were very compassionate, reminding them again and again to be cautious and making them promise they must come back alive. Li Yin was very touched. After a year, it seems that they truly became very close to each other.

After all, it is because of everyone's mutual support that they have stayed alive till now!

As he thinks about all this, Li Yin's feelings are mixed. He glances at Luo Hengyan and Qin Shoutian who are soundly asleep, and Ye Kexin who is

struggling to stay awake.

“Kexin, hang in there. Two of us must remain awake.” Li Yin says, “Just persist for a little longer. Here, have a little more tea.”

“I’m fine...” Although she says this, Ye Kexin still yawns widely. “I, I cannot fall asleep.”

Hence Li Yin can only keep talking to her so she can concentrate, “Then, let’s talk. Kexin, you like Xia Yuan, right?”

“Ah, yeah... Eh? Ah, no no no no, I don’t...” Kexin waves her arm frantically and says, “I, I’m not with Xia Yuan...”

The fact that Ye Kexin has stayed alive till this point has to do with Xia Yuan’s existence. For three years now, she has forcefully endured everything. “Xia Yuan...” Ye Kexin’s face turns completely red. “He might not be interested in me. Moreover, right now, the first priority is to stay alive. I don’t even dare to think about those things...”

Li Yin says with a smile, “We will definitely all stay alive and leave that god damn apartment... For sure!”

After hearing these words from Li Yin, Ye Kexin feels a bit more relieved.

“Hengyan, his personality is quite impulsive. I’m a bit worried about him.” Li Yin turns around and looks at the deeply asleep Luo Hengyan. “He’s quite the pitiful one too. After his parents both passed away, he moved to city K alone, but who would expect that these kind of things will happen to him.”

“Yeah...” Ye Kexin nods her head and says, “And Shoutian as well... he got divorced because his wife cheated on him. He was wandering around despondently after getting drunk late at night. As a result, his shadow got...”

Qin Shoutian and Ye Kexin once received the same bloody instructions. That time, there were only three people on that mission and the other person died in the end, leaving only Qin Shoutian and Ye Kexin alive. Thus Ye Kexin strongly considers Qin Shoutian as her partner. She really hopes he can stay alive.

The next day...is finally here.

“So Mr. Li and Miss Ye are still not awake?” When Elder Zhang comes to greet

them early in the morning, Luo Hengyan tells him that since Li Yin and Ye Kexin are both very tired, they are still resting.

“That’s fine.” Elder Zhang suddenly glances around furtively. When he realizes there is no one around, he then asks Luo Hengyan in a low voice, “Mr. Luo, since there are no other people here, you can just tell me... when is your boss coming?”

“Ah? Boss?” Luo Hengyan looks at him blankly and asks, “What boss?”

“Haha, you’re still pretending? I know your boss exhorted you to maintain your façade properly. Don’t worry, I already told the people in the village, and they wouldn’t dare to not give me any face. You can look around the village freely. I will certainly not obstruct you.”

“I... I don’t understand...”

“Right right right. You don’t understand. It is right that you don’t understand. Just relax. During the time you stay in this village, I will make sure that I treat you well. Your boss has already contacted me...”

As he stared Elder Zhang’s very attentive manner, Luo Hengyan starts to realize that this elder might have misunderstood something.

However, it seems like because of that “boss”, the elder allows them to stay, treating them very enthusiastically and even beating his dear grandson.

Then... just let him continue to keep this misunderstanding.

“Grandfather!”

Zhang Suyue suddenly runs towards them in a hurry. She says breathlessly, “Grandfather, something huge has happened. Uncle... Uncle Haotian is gone!”

“Haotian?” Elder Zhang immediately furrows his eyebrows and then says to Luo Hengyan, “Mr. Luo... I need to handle something first.”

“Gone?” This is a word that Luo Hengyan, who is very sensitive towards his surroundings, can easily relate to. Li Yin warned him over and over again that he must pay attention to every “unnatural” thing that occurs so he immediately says, “Elder, I will come with you!”

In front of the fiercely flowing waterfall, Ah Xiu takes off her socks and shoes,

immerses her feet in the water and swings her legs.

“Ah Xiu...”

She immediately turns around to see her next door neighbor, Liang Renbin, a childhood friend who grew up with her.

The handsome Liang Renbin has always been very intimate with Ah Xiu. After Ah Xiu’s parents passed away, he even transparently stated his desire that Ah Xiu should marry him but Ah Xiu used the excuse of having to mourn her parents to keep stalling the marriage. After all, people from these rural villages have more conservative beliefs than people who live in the city.

However... after the Li Bing incident, Ah Xiu started to avoid Renbin.

“Today is sister Bing Er’s commemoration day,” Ah Xiu turns around and says, “I will mourn her. No matter how much the people in the village treats her death as taboo, I will never forget this date.”

“Why bother? Ah Xiu, will you keep antagonizing me just because of Li Bing? She is already dead, what else can I do?”

“I don’t ever want to see you again,” Ah Xiu continues speaking coldly. “If you dare come here again, I won’t let you off easily!”

Liang Renbin’s expression turns bitter as he says, “Alright...it seems you won’t listen to anything I say today anyway. But Ah Xiu, you have to remember that my feelings for you will forever remain true!”

After Renbin left, Ah Xiu bends down and scoops up some water to wash her face. At this moment, through the gaps between her fingers, she sees that the reflection on the water is not her face but that of another woman’s.

She moves her hand away slowly. The surface of the water once again reflects her face.

“Sister Bing Er...” Ah Xiu does not show even a trace of fear as she says, “I know, I know you hated so much... Even if you’ve become like this, you are still my sister Bing Er. I won’t be scared of you because I know that you will never harm me. Just do whatever you want to do. Kill everyone who coerced you to die...everyone...”

<http://volaretranslations.com/apartment-from-hell/ah-chapter-6/>

Chapter 6 – The Feast of Blood (I)

In a small village like this, how can there be a police force? When big things happen, only the Village Elder will be in charge. Furthermore, doesn't everyone know one another? Normally there will never be incidents like robbery and murder, so Yan Haotian's disappearance has kicked up a huge uproar in the village.

Since his disappearance is of such significance, people in the village have even organized search teams to look for him by themselves. After all, since Yan Haotian maintained good relationships with his fellow villages, no one wants anything to happen to him.

When his disappearance was discovered, there was a commotion.

"This is Li Bing's revenge. It must be her revenge!"

At this moment, Luo Hengyan who is by Elder Zhang's side goes to inspect Yan Haotian's house. He comes to know that Yan Haotian is the middle aged man from yesterday. But when they walk out of Yan Haotian's house, an olive-skinned woman suddenly screams the line above in sheer terror.

It is already not the first time that Luo Hengyan has heard the name Li Bing. He anticipates that this bloody mission is very likely related to her somehow so he asks confidently without thinking, "What do you mean? Just who is this Li Bing?"

That olive-skinned woman looks to be less than twenty years old, with a very tall body. Just she is about to say something, a large, muscular man standing behind her hurriedly interrupts her from continuing, yelling at her, "Ah Qin, stop saying such nonsense! There is nothing like that! Everyone please don't mind her..."

"Who knows?"

Suddenly, a cold voice carries over. Luo Hengyan immediately looks in the

direction of the voice; it is Ah Xiu, the girl carrying water buckets whom they met yesterday.

“Ah Xiu, you...” That big and muscular man hurries to say, “What are you talking about...”

“In recent years, there’s been more than one strange thing that’s happened, right? Haha, you all don’t dare to say much because of your guilty conscience, but I am fully aware. This is the curse from sister Bing Er!”

At this moment most people from the village have gathered here. As they look at Ah Xiu’s gaze, no one dares to utter a word. Everyone’s expression is panicked and fearful, their hearts unsettled and insecure.

Luo Hengyan begins to realise that at the heart of all this lies a huge mystery. Although there seems to be rumours about supernatural hauntings, the details are still unclear.

Could it really be that, this Li Bing person is holding onto her grudge and refusing to let go?

“Hmph! Ah Xiu, stop misleading people with your wicked words.” At this moment, a bespectacled girl with short hair and a fat man both walk forward.

That fat man fixes his gaze on Ah Xiu ruthlessly as he says, “Just don’t forget that Li Bing died because she killed herself! It was none of our business!”

“Killed herself? Song Tian, you really have some nerve to say this. How did you treat sister Bing Er back then?” Ah Xiu glares right back at him and says, “Sister Bing Er grew up with us. But after that incident, you all treated her like she was a cancerous virus. You mocked and scorned her, and even threw rocks at her. I saw it happen many times with my own eyes!”

“You...” That fat man, Song Tian, who was rebuked by Ah Xiu replied, “So what? She’s just an illegitimate child birthed from her mother’s adultery. It’s already a blessing for her that we keep such an illegitimate child in this village. What rights does she have to be distasteful towards us?”

“If you dare to say those two words one more time!” At this moment, Ah Xiu is immersed in burning fires of rage. Just as she is about to rush towards that man, the bespectacled, short-haired woman next to Song Tian reacts even faster. She

strides forward, as fast as an arrow, and slaps Ah Xiu's face.

"How dare you try to touch him! You want to hit my man right in front of me? Have you forgotten that I'm here?"

"You... Ge Ling..." Ah Xiu momentarily stills in stunned confusion as she covers her slapped face. She looks at Ge Ling's fierce expression before suddenly rushing towards the bespectacled short-haired woman and tightly clenching onto the latter's hair, shouting, "You were also an accomplice! You're also responsible for Bing Er's death! I will never let you go easily!"

Even though everyone comes forward to restrain Ah Xiu, her strength is too great. She tugs the bespectacled woman's hair into a wild mess and even tries to scratch her face. As he observes this scene from aside, Luo Hengyan feels very surprised. Yesterday, his first impression of her was that she is a quite quiet and innocent farm girl but it turns out that she is actually so bold and hot-tempered. Can it be that nowadays, even this village has fallen under the poisonous influence of the counterculture?

But he finally understands the circumstances behind the Li Bing incident.

That is to say... Li Bing grew up with the young generation of this village and this Ah Xiu was probably her closest friend. After the close-minded villagers found out that she was the illegitimate offspring of her mother's adultery, they naturally despised her. They probably insulted and bullied her beyond what she could tolerate, driving her to commit suicide.

But even if her phantom still lingers, she has no grudge against Luo Hengyan himself and the rest of Li Yin's group so it wouldn't make sense for her to hurt them, would it? But that apartment will not send them to a place without danger. Since they have to live here for a month, then it is not possible that within this month, nothing will happen.

After that, Luo Hengyan asks the elder for more details regarding the incident.

Li Bing's parents were both from the village. She grew up with the other children in the village and maintained good relationships with the other villagers, a lively and cheerful child. Among the youth, Ah Xiu had the best relationship with her, no different from close siblings. Hongwu and Suyue from the elder's family, Liang Renbin, the couple Song Tian and Ge Ling just then, and the olive-

skinned Tie Qin were all very close to Li Bing age wise. And that big, muscular man is Tie Qin's father, the stonemason in the village.

That night, five years ago, Li Bing's mother spilled her secret after drinking too much alcohol. Li Bing was in fact the child she conceived after an affair with someone from another village. After careful calculations, she believed the child's father to be that one non-villager.

This truth ignited such fury in Li Bing's father that he almost beat his wife to death. After that, he left the village angrily, saying that he had to look for the rapist and till today, he still has not returned. Li Bing and her mother naturally suffered hatred-filled glances wherever they went in the village. As a result, Li Bing's mother died unhappily after falling ill. During that time, only Ah Xiu helped Li Bing conduct her mother's funeral.

The following days for Li Bing was like being in hell.

Everyone in the village looked at her as though they were looking at garbage. All of them felt that she was filthy, either avoiding her as soon as they saw her or showering her with insults.

In the end, these kind of days lasted for about a year before one day, Li Bing jumped down the waterfall and committed suicide. Ah Xiu cried for a few days because of this. Finally, she had to arrange Li Bing's funeral by herself.

When he returns to the elder's house, Luo Hengyan tells what he saw and heard to Li Yin who just woke up, as well as Qin Shoutian.

After Li Yin makes sure that the room door is shut tightly, he says to Luo Hengyan and Qin Shoutian in a low voice, "I believe I understand the situation. We cannot stay here anymore."

"Ah?" Before Luo Hengyan can gather his thoughts, Qin Shoutian already understands.

"Zhang Hongwu and Zhang Suyue, and their mother, Zhang Yinglan, they all spoke coldly towards Li Bing, right?"

"Since that's the case..."

"If Li Bing really became a grudge-filled spirit waiting to exact her revenge,

then those three people in this house will likely become targets of her vengeance. If we stay here, won't we be harmed as well?"

Li Yin's words are indeed sensible.

But...then where should they stay?

"Ah Xiu..." Li Yin says without hesitation. "I think Ah Xiu's house is the safest. Because logically, it is impossible that Li Bing would want to take revenge on her."

"Eh?" Luo Hengyan freezes before saying, "But both of her parents have already passed away. She lives by herself. We three men staying together with her, that's..."

"We're already on the brink of life and death, and you still care about this kind of thing?" Qin Shoutian pushes his glasses up his nose bridge and says, "Can you come up a place that's safer than Ah Xiu's house?"

Indeed... In this Village of Tranquil Water, if there is one place that is absolutely safe, it is...definitely Ah Xiu's house.

"But do we forcefully move in?"

"Let's talk to her about it." Qin Shoutian also appeared rather troubled at that moment. "Since she was quite kind to us yesterday, maybe she will agree. But the villagers have a conservative mindset, so it's unavoidable that if she hosts us, who are neither her relatives nor her close friends, judgmental gossip will spread."

But there is nothing else that can be done.

Thus, Li Yin personally goes to look for Ah Xiu.

On the other hand, in the woods near the village...

"Do you want to die?!" Ge Ling shoves that olive-skinned Tie Qin to the ground, scolding, "Saying that Li Bing is coming back for revenge? You think there's still not enough rumours about the ghostly hauntings?"

"But..." Tie Qin says, her whole body quivering. "Have you all forgotten? Uncle Haotian had been scornful towards those ghostly rumours all along, even saying that if there are ghosts, he really wanted to see them! He said this exactly one

week ago!”

“So what? How can there possibly be ghosts!”

“But, but... This is truly creepy. The elder’s son-in-law also died mysteriously. Even though nobody talk about it, but their hearts are all like pounding like drums... Furthermore, every time something happens, it’s always within a month of Li Bing’s commemoration day. This, this is too ominous...”

“Piss off!” Ge Ling gives her a rough kick and says, “Will it kill you to talk less?! Ghosts? Where are the ghosts? Li Bing, I dare you to come out and scare me right now! Haha, nothing happened. You don’t... you...”

Ge Ling could not finish her sentence.

Because...

She clearly sees that inside the widely opened mouth of Tie Qin who is lying on the ground, there suddenly appears a deathly pale face haloed by a wild mess of hair!

“You...” Ge Ling suddenly pulls Tie Qin up and says, “Open... Open your mouth wider!”

“Sister Ling, what are you going to do...”

“Just open your mouth wider!”

But by then, that face has already disappeared. The inside of the Tie Qin’s mouth looks very normal but Ge Ling will not dare believe that the scene just then was an illusion. It was simply too clear!

She widens her eyes, looking straight down Tie Qin’s throat, her face almost touching the insides of Tie Qin’s mouth.

But still, she finds nothing.

Ge Lin starts to retreat backwards as she stares at Tie Qin in horror. Gradually...she starts to realize something strange.

“On, on your body... Why is there so much water!”

“Ah?” Tie Qin looks down carefully. Indeed, water pumps out from her body continuously. Her clothes are already soaked in water, sticking to her skin tightly.

Immediately after that, Ge Ling sees something that nearly makes her eyes explode.

After Tie Qin's clothes sticks onto her body, she can clearly see that on the Tie Qin's chest, there is a distinct silhouette of a human face bulging out from the surface of the cloth.

"Ahhh!" Ge Ling immediately covers her face in shock before picking up a stone from the ground. She steps forward, kicking Tie Qin down and smashes violently at the silhouette at the front of her chest! And that stone happens to have a sharp point. As the sharp end pierces Tie Qin's chest again and again, Tie Qin desperately tries to stop Ge Lin. But Ge Lin has already lost her mind. After a few hits imbued with astonishing strength, Tie Qin's chest has already become a mush of blood and flesh.

Without knowing how long she has been smashing the rock for, Ge Ling suddenly realizes something and looks towards Tie Qin's face. At that moment... her face is already completely lifeless, without a single trace of blood. The once dark skin has become deathly pale. A gush of fresh blood is flowing out of her mouth.

Ge Ling tugs at Tie Qin's clothes and tears them open, revealing her stomach. But at that moment... she can only see the wound that she had smashed out. Where was the human face?

"Ghost...It's a ghost..." she drops the stone immediately as she continuously stepped backwards, her body shivering uncontrollably. She says to herself, "It, it wasn't me... Li, Li Bing, it has nothing to do with me. You killed yourself. I, I once scolded and hit you, but I didn't kill you. It is not my fault. Don't come for me, don't come..."

Then dragging her body, she crawls up and runs away as though she is riding the wind.

"Sure, you guys can stay for as long as you want."

Ah Xiu's reply surprises Li Yin's group greatly.

"Really... it's okay?" Li Yin asks again, "The four of us..."

"Of course." Ah Xiu says, her expression full of delight, "You guys are

journalists right? As long as you report sister Bing Er's death and reveal the sins of this village, it doesn't matter how long you stay here."

We're still being mistaken as reporters... Li Xin thinks. Do I really look so much like a paparazzi?

Ah Xiu's house is not very big, so hosting five people is indeed a little cramped. But at night, there will only be two people asleep anyways, while the other two stand guard. So like this, it will be enough.

"That's great. We will go pack our stuff first. Sorry, we're really troubling you." Li Yin thanks Ah Xiu repeatedly. "We will definitely pay rent. Don't worry, we won't take advantage of you."

After Li Yin leaves, Ah Xiu shuts the door and bars it tightly. Then she walks inside the kitchen of her room.

Her kitchen is quite large and there is a huge water tank in place.

Ah Xiu walks to the front of the water tank, opens the tank lid and peers inside.

A man's body is submerged within the water tank, his face paler than a sheet of paper.

This man...is in fact the missing Yan Haotian!

"Uncle Haotian, I have never forgotten how you treated sister Bing Er before. Relying on your popularity, you spread rumours about sister Bing Er's background like a gossip woman. So..."

Ah Xiu takes out a pair of scissors, grabs Yan Haotian's hair and pulls his head out of the water. She pries his mouth open and then... extends the scissors into his mouth and cuts his tongue off!

"Sister Bing Er, don't you worry." Ah Xiu's pretty face exposes an expression of bone-chilling cruelty, "You just need to send them to me one by one. I will take care of them very well."

After that, she walks to the another room within the house and opens a locked cabinet. Taking out a small jar, she puts the tongue inside.

Within this cabinet, there are many other similar jars filled with tongues!

She closes the cabinet and locks it. Suddenly, she hears a loud splashing sound from the kitchen. She hurries to the inside of the kitchen and looks.

Inside of the water tank, it is no longer Yan Haotian, but Tie Qin who was just killed by Ge Ling!

Ah Xiu sneers and raises the sharp scissors in her hand again....

<http://volaretranslations.com/apartment-from-hell/ah-chapter-7/>

Chapter 7 – The Feast of Blood (II)

“You... you want to move to Ah Xiu’s house?”

After hearing Li Yin say this, Elder Zhang is completely nonplussed before he quickly asks in a low voice, “This, am I not treating you guys appropriately here? Ah Xiu’s house is so small, you all...”

“There is no such thing, elder. You have treated us really well. But we want to experience the true farm customs. Since you’ve treated us so well, the feeling of living in a farm has in fact been lost.”

This is obviously a lie without even half a soup spoon of sincerity. In reality, just who can you fool with such a bad lie like “experiencing the farm customs”? The elder clearly let them stay because of a misunderstanding, but now they can only try to make the best out of this mistake.

When the Village Elder saw Li Yin’s insistence, an epiphany suddenly seemed to dawn on him as he said, “Oh, so that’s what it is. That’s what it is.”

“What do you mean?”

“I understand. But Mr. Li you have to remember one thing.” Elder Zhang speaks to Li Yin in an abnormally grave manner, “Please keep this in mind. If Ah Xiu mentions anything like ghostly hauntings or some people who disappeared from this village in the past, definitely do not trust her. Those are all her nonsensical tales. Yes, indeed there have been some people who disappeared mysteriously within a month of Bing Er’s commemoration day, but those are all coincidences.”

“Coincidences?”

“Nowadays, everyone wants to go to the city to expand their worldview. Many think that staying in the village for their whole life ruins their future, especially the young ones. They all want to run to the city to find a job and seek

development, believing that the city floor is covered by shining gold. But as to why they choose Bing Er's commemoration day, I think they want to blame everything on the ghostly rumours so the villagers will not suspect that they have actually gone to the city. Otherwise they will be troubled by these annoying people from the village who go to the city to look for them..."

This logic is very strained. Li Yin feels that the elder is intentionally hiding something.

"Anyways... Mr. Li, please don't believe anything that Ah Xiu says," Elder Zhang says solemnly, "Her relationship with Bing Er was too good, which is why things have become like this."

After leaving the elder's house, Li Yin becomes more certain that the elder knows something but had not told him.

And Ah Xiu... Is Ah Xiu hiding something as well?

When he approaches Ah Xiu's house, Li Yin notices a bespectacled youth walking in the direction of Ah Xiu's house. And when that person spots Li Yin's group, he furrows his brows.

"You guys... Are you the four non-native people from the city?" This bespectacled man is Liang Renbin. His tone dissatisfied, he says, "What are you guys doing here?"

After all, the elder already notified the villagers. So, being mindful of the elder's face, his attitude is only just a bit cold.

Luo Hengyang also recognizes Liang Renbin. This morning he saw this person pulling Ah Xiu back when she was to hit Ge Ling.

"I remember you..." Luo Hengyan thinks for a bit and says, "Your name is... Renbin, right?"

"Liang Renbin." He answers him coldly. "My father is the only doctor in the village and he is very close to the elder's family. I don't know what is Elder Zhang thinking. But Ah Wu mentions to me that you are definitely not good people! I advise you to leave early. Anything you've heard about ghostly hauntings are all just nonsense. Don't even think about trying to dig up news from that!"

Then, he suddenly remembers something and asks in a hurry, “Wait... you’re all bringing your belongings...to Ah Xiu’s house? It can’t be that you guys are planning to live in her house, right?”

“That’s correct.” Li Yin answers.

Liang Renbin immediately explodes in outrage, completely forgetting everything the elder has reminded him. He roars, “Who do you think you are? You guys dare to stay with Ah Xiu?”

“What kind of attitude is that?” Luo Hengyan also gets furious, “So what if we dare? Who are you to Ah Xiu? Do you have any say over her?”

“She is my fiancée!” Liang Renbin strides towards them quickly. He grabs Li Yin’s collar with one hand and says, “You guys get out of the village right now! If you dare to step a foot in again, I will mutilate you!”

“As the son of a doctor, shouldn’t you possess at least a little compassion?” Li Yin says calmly, “Mr. Liang, please let go. We will leave after living for a month. We definitely won’t bring you all any trouble.”

“Fuck off!” Liang Renbin’s anger takes over his mind. Just as he is about to give Li Yin a violent punch, Li Yin grabs his fist and says, “Mr. Liang, please do not test my limits!”

During this whole month, they can’t even take half a step out of the Village of Tranquil Water. So they must act absolutely unyielding! If they are too soft right now, then in the future, it will be very troublesome if all the villagers unite together to make them leave.

“You...” Liang Renbin seems to want to say more, but suddenly, he sees two people running towards them behind Li Yin, so he releases his grasp. He shouts, “Ah Wu, Ah Yue!”

The people who are approaching them are Zhang Hongwu and Zhang Suyue from Elder Zhang’s family.

“What are you doing? Renbin?” Suyue just saw that Renbin was about to hit Li Yin so she quickly dissuades him, “This is not decent, Renbin...”

“Ah Yue, both of us grew up with Ah Xiu. You tell me, should I let these

strangers freely stay in Ah Xiu's house? You know how I feel about Ah Xiu!"

Suyue nods her head and says, "I know that, which is why I rushed here." Then, she looks at Li Yin. "Mr.Li, Mr.Luo, Mr.Qin, and Miss Ye, please leave. Look, none of the villagers welcome you here..."

"Who says so? I welcome them a lot."

A familiar voice carries over as everyone turns their gazes towards the same person – Ah Xiu.

She glares at Liang Renbin coldly and says, "Liang Renbin, you grew tougher huh? Just who is your fiancée? And who were you about to hit?"

"Ah, Ah Xiu... listen to me, these four people do not come with good intentions."

"Even then, they're better than you!" Ah Xiu doesn't even bother to look at him directly. She walks straight to Li Yin and says. "Please don't mind him, Mr. Li. Come with me."

Unable to tolerate any further, Liang Renbin grabs Ah Xiu's hand and says, "Ah Xiu! What do you really mean by this?!"

"Exactly what it looks like. I am not your fiancée and I will not marry you. I can still remember very vividly how you treated sister Bing Er!"

Then, she turns her sight to Ah Wu and Suyue and says, "You two aren't any better either. Ah Wu, you tried to rape sister Bing Er before, right?"

Ah Wu's face immediately turns stark white. He angrily replies, "Don't... Don't slander me with your malicious words!"

"I knew it! You told sister Bing Er that since she is the wicked child from her mom's affair, the blood flowing through her bones must be filthy anyway. That time...you tried to rape her by forcing her under a bush. If it wasn't for Elder Zhang who happened to pass by, sister Bing Er would have..."

Ah Wu looks at the judgmental gazes from the people around them and explains in a panic, "She is lying! Don't trust her! Suyue, you, you trust your older brother right?"

"And you, Suyue!" Ah Xiu points at her coldly and says, "Although you have not

done anything directly to sister Bing Er, you grew up playing with her. You remained indifferent even when such a significant thing happened to her. And when her mother passed away, you never even came to ask about her wellbeing!”

“Ah Xiu, I... I...” Suyue seems to want to defend herself, but was at a loss for words.

As he looks at this scene, Li Yin thinks that Ah Xiu must be really attached to Li Bing, to the extent that this attachment has been engraved into her bones and carved into her heart.

“Ah Wu,” Liang Renbin also asks in astonishment, “You couldn’t have done that, could you? You, you really did it? You’re insane!”

“It wasn’t me!” Ah Wu is still steadfastly trying to explain himself, “You believe Ah Xiu’s words? She also says that Li Bing’s vengeful ghost did not disappear and is coming back to take revenge on us. Don’t tell me you believe that as well?”

“I grew up with you, even playing around with our buttocks naked. You think I can’t tell whether you are speaking the truth?” Liang Renbin then pays no further attention to Ah Wu. He continues to say to Ah Xiu, “Ah Xiu, alright, I get it. In the future, no, not in the future. Today is Li Bing’s commemoration day right? I will go there right now to pay my respects with you. I repent for everything that I did to her. Is this okay? Please don’t be like this! I really, truly like you!”

But Ah Xiu only reveals an ominous smile. “You like me? Fine, then prove it to me.”

“Prove? How?”

She points at the waterfall on the mountainside in far distance and says, “Go jump off from there. Oh, and don’t forget to cut off your tongue first. If you do that, I’ll believe that you actually like me.”

There is not a single trace of humour in her voice as she says this as her eyes fill with malice and cruelty.

This sends a chill down Li Yin’s heart.

“Ah Xiu...” Liang Renbin also becomes a bit scared by her gaze. He says, “You... you don’t really mean that, right?”

“Don’t want to jump? Then, just cutting off your tongue is fine too. If you cannot even do this, then don’t say you like me.”

This chilling grudge-filled look from Ah Xiu makes Li Yin, Luo Hengyan and everyone else shudder.

At the same time this is happening, Ge Ling sprints back home. The first she does is to shut the door tightly!

“I... I killed a person... I killed someone...” Ge Ling leans against the door. Recalling the scene from just now, she has still not recovered from her shock.

Just then, her husband Song Tian’s voice travels from the inner room, “What’s the matter? Have you lost your soul?”

She struggles to stand up, walks into the innermost room and says to her husband who is sitting in the room, “Hey... I said, we should go and burn some paper money for Li Bing.”

“Ah?” Song Tian is momentarily stunned and says, “Are...are you okay? Do you really think that Uncle Haotian disappeared because of the ghostly hauntings?”

“My, my heart is unsettled.” She takes occasional glances out of the window.

“You should stop overthinking!” Song Tian hurries to support her, sitting her down on the bed. “You are under the influence of Ah Xiu, right? There are indeed a few people missing, but that is not many at all. Only the son-in-law of the elder’s family died quite strangely, falling in front of the elder’s front door with his body fully soaked by water... but you can’t say these were caused by ghosts! This is all made up by Ah Xiu. Actually everyone is discussing whether Ah Xiu killed those people. But I don’t think that’s possible. How can a weak girl like her kill that many people?”

“I...I don’t know, I saw, I...”

“Why are you saying such nonsense?! Forget it and stop overthinking. I just thought of one more thing, this might have some connection with those four people from the city.”

“What?” After hearing this, Ge Ling hurriedly asks, “Just what is really going on?”

“About... a month ago, someone brought the elder a letter from the city, quite the rare occurrence. After the elder read that letter, his attitude became very strange, treating those ghostly rumours as even more of a taboo. So no one dares to mention anything in front of him anymore.”

“A letter? Why am I not aware of this?”

“Of course you’re not aware. You never quite concerned yourself with things that happen in the village. I reckon that those four people might have something to do with that letter. Otherwise, why would the elder welcome them into his own house?”

This sounds quite logical.

“Alright, you should stop overthinking. Stay here. I am going to the bathroom first.” Song Tian walks out.

The bathroom is outside the room. After pulling the door open, he walks to the toilet bowl. Undoing his pants, he squats down.

At this moment...he suddenly feels a chilly feeling spreading from his buttocks before he hears the loud sound of rushing water.

Before he even has time to react, he sees an extremely horrifying scene!

It is not clear water that is flushing down the toilet, but... fresh crimson blood!

And mixed in the fresh blood, are numerous minced chunks of flesh, organs... and even a skull that has been cut in half!

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaa—!” Song Tian frantically pulls up his pants and stands up, rushing towards the bathroom door.
But the bathroom door is locked!

He immediately uses his body to slam against the door desperately, but no matter how hard he slams, the door refuses to budge.

He then begins to pound on the door, screaming with all his might, “Ah Ling, Ah Ling! You oblivious woman, hurry up and open the door for me! Quickly! Open the door right now!”

Just then, he unintentionally turns his head around to glance behind him and... his entire body freezes.

A hand covered fully in fresh blood extends from underneath the toilet bowl! Song Tian instantly collapses to the ground weakly. He wants to say something, anything, but the words stuck to his throat could not be uttered.

Then, a head covered entirely in long and thick hair emerges from the toilet slowly...

<http://volaretranslations.com/apartment-from-hell/ah-chapter-8/>

Chapter 8 – The Feast of Blood (III)

Just as Song Tian's organs are at the brink of exploding from fear, a round of knocking suddenly sounded from outside the door. The knocking is followed by Ge Ling's voice, "Why are you screaming as if someone has died?!"

This voice reaches Song Tian's ear like a wave of heavenly music. He immediately turns back and shouts, "Ah Ling... Hurry, open the door. There is..."

Then he turns his gaze back towards the toilet bowl... But that place is already empty...

"I want to know more about the story behind all these ghostly rumours."

Li Yin decides to just play along, taking the role of a reporter. Qin Shoutian also pulls out his journalist pass, thus further convincing Ah Xiu.

After taking out a pen, Li Yin spreads a piece of paper onto the square table in the living room of Ah Xiu's house. He asks, "Miss Ah Xiu... the following questions we have are very important. I hope you can answer honestly."

Li Yin is very certain that everything is not as simple as it superficially seems.

That apartment will not assign them a mission that does not threaten their lives at all, especially when this is his fourth bloody word mission. Last time, the phantom in the school killed indiscriminately. But this time, this supernatural incident has a clear motif of revenge.

Then...she has no reason to do anything to us. For the difficulty of this mission to conversely be lower than the third bloody word mission, this is impossible.

So Li Yin is convinced that they must have missed something. And what they missed is definitely fatal!

It is impossible that the apartment will give them an obvious safe spot where they can stay alive. After living in that apartment for a year, Li Yin knows this point well!

Ah Xiu who is sitting across Li Yin smiles faintly and says, “Mr. Reporter, then you have to write down my words and publish them.”

“Yes, of course.”

“Okay then... I will tell you.” Ah Xiu starts to recite everything that has happened since Bing Er’s death.

The death of Li Bing indeed aroused a commotion in the village. Although everyone despised Li Bing before, this was a matter of life and death, so the disturbance lasted for a long time after her death. And for Ah Xiu who was deeply attached to Li Bing, the sorrow was too painful for her to endure.

After that incident, Ah Xiu began living like a walking corpse. She never had any mood to cultivate her farm and did not eat well for a few months, eventually becoming a bag of skin and bones.

Those days were truly painful. But there were two people who would always visit her and bring her some food, Liang Renbin and Zhang Suyue.

In the past, besides Bing Er, Ah Xiu was closest with Suyue. Although she is the granddaughter of the elder’s family, Suyue is usually very easy-going and hardworking due to her status as a farm girl. But her personality is too soft and malleable which is why when the Bing Er incident occurred, she felt pressured by the people around her. Even though she sympathized with Bing Er, she was not brave enough to speak up for her.

This past friendship has already been completely shattered. Now, when Ah Xiu looks towards Suyue, her eyes contain only hatred.

About half a year later, on the night of the 6th of June, Suyue was visiting Ah Xiu again. Although their conversation became awkward after lasting no more than a couple sentences, she still repeatedly reminded Ah Xiu to take care of herself.

After she left, Ah Xiu could still not fall asleep. Although the night got deeper and deeper, she did not feel sleepy at all. The next day was Bing Er’s commemoration day.

After her parents had passed away, Bing Er was Ah Xiu’s only irreplaceable

loved one. From childhood till now, no matter what time it was, Bing Er was always there to guard Ah Xiu, caring for and protecting her like an older sister.

She will never be able to recover from Bing Er's death.

And it was precisely during that night....

She suddenly heard the strange sound of water from the water tank inside of the kitchen.

Initially, Ah Xiu was so scared that she had jumped in fright, but she still slowly walked into the kitchen and crept towards the water tank.

As Ah Xiu speaks about this, Ye Kexin, who is listening on the side, shivers. She cannot help but look towards the kitchen.

"Don't be scared, Miss Ye." Ah Xiu says with a smile, "Sister Bing Er will never hurt you guys."

Following that, she continues her story.

At that time, even she did not know where her courage originated as she flipped open the lid of the water tank.

What appeared in the water tank was... it was actually Suyue's father, the son in law of elder's family!

At first, Ah Xiu panicked mindlessly, but then she...noticed something!

There were two thin and pale arms wrapped around the waist of the elder's son in law's corpse. And when Ah Xiu noticed that pair of arms, they quickly retracted behind the back of the corpse!

Ah Xiu then quickly fished out that corpse from the water tank (at this point, Kexin looks at Ah Xiu's face with even more fear), but she could not find the owner of those pale arms.

However, Ah Xiu understood what transpired.

It was Bing Er!

Sister Bing Er had killed this man. Suyue had been coerced by him to end her friendship with Bing Er, to definitely not get too close to her. Because of him, even Suyue had become cold towards Sister Bing Er.

“Want to know what I did later?” Ah Xiu’s expression turns into a ghastly smile, “I cut off his tongue! Because it was talking too much! Then I dragged his corpse to the elder’s doorstep.”

When Qin Shoutian hears this, he adjusts his glasses and says steadily, “Miss Ah Xiu...you would actually tell us this kind of things?”

“Aren’t you guys journalists? Then publish these things.” Ah Xiu’s smile grows even wider, as though she is just chatting casually about her daily life. “Well, I don’t care anyways. After sister Bing Er passed away, I’ve already stopped caring whether I am dead or alive.”

“Cutting the tongue of the elder’s son-in-law... doing something like this...”

“The elder’s family did not announce anything. Hehe, they probably thought of something? Indeed, there were people who suspected me, but so what? My relationship with the villagers is antagonistic as water and fire anyways. Only Liang Renbin still bothers me relentlessly, but every second I’m hoping that someday his corpse will show up in my water tank!”

“All the people who went missing in the village will appear in this water tank? What did you do with the corpses later?”

“I only cut off their tongues. After doing this, the corpse that was there will disappear, and then... new corpses will appear again.”

Li Yin diligently records everything. Then, forcing himself to remain calm, he says, “Thank you very much, Miss Ah Xiu. The material you provided is very valuable.”

This woman is clearly insane.

Her overly stubborn feelings towards Bing Er made her to do these kinds of unimaginable things.

Qin Shoutian looks towards Li Yin, his gaze questioning. His meaning is clear: How much we can trust this woman?

Li Yin also uses his eyes to answer him: Quite trustworthy.

If it was before, Li Yin would be convinced that Ah Xiu suffers from intense paranoia. But now...he believes that this is closer to the reality.

Water tank...corpse...detached tongues...Ah Xiu...Bing Er...

Li Yin feels that everything they've discovered seems to be hiding a crucial point that they all overlooked. But what exactly is it? Bing Er's vengeful ghost is still lingering, committing brutal massacres a month after her commemoration day every year and sending the corpses to Ah Xiu's house.

Even just thinking about it is enough to send bone-chilling shivers up anyone's spine.

Is moving to Ah Xiu's house really the correct decision?

"What do you think..." Li Yin lowers his voice and asks, "How many more people will she kill?"

"Hmm... Probably Tieqin, Renbin, Ge Ling, Hongwu and Suyue. These five people will definitely die..."

Li Yin asks another question.

A question that he is extremely concerned about.

"Can you communicate with Bing Er's soul?"

Ah Xiu shakes her head and says, "I can't. If that is possible, I really wish that I can talk some more with Sister!"

"Are you not scared?"

"Scared? Why would I be scared?" Ah Xiu continues to retain her gently smiling expression, but this only makes her appear even more terrifying.

Ye Kexin cannot hold back anymore as she asks, "Miss Ah Xiu...You shouldn't have done this... You..."

Li Yin hurriedly hints to Ye Kexin that she should not continue speaking, but it is too late. Ah Xiu glares at her coldly and says, 'What? Are you telling me these people don't deserve to die? They pressured sister Bing Er to death! Did they not? They did!'

"You... that logic..."

Ye Kexin does not dare to say anything more.

That night, the case of Tieqin's disappearance stirs up a huge panic within the

village once again. It can be said that everyone worries about their safety right now. Originally, the village was so peaceful that people didn't even need to close their doors at night, but now they all lock their doors tightly and are only willing to go out when paired with someone else.

What is going to happen in the next month?

Night.

Li Yin and Qin Shoutian sit in the living room. Listening to the light snoring from the inner rooms, they start to discuss their plans for the next step.

"Something's not right." This is also not the first time that Qin Shoutian has executed a bloody mission. He does not believe that everything is this simple.

Li Yin takes out a torch and shines it at that piece of paper he recorded on previously, analysing it together with Qin Shoutian, "That water tank seems to be the main medium that Bing Er and Ah Xiu contact each other with. Bing Er will send corpses that she killed every time to that tank, but they will all disappear later. The only exception was the elder's son-in-law's corpse. Judging from all these different scenarios, Bing Er and Ah Xiu have a strong attachment and connection with each other. So if we are nice to Ah Xiu, Bing Er has no reason to lay her hands on us. It seems like this superficially..."

"Is it...not true?"

"This is too strange. People in the village once suspected Ah Xiu to be the murderer. But it seems they are more willing to accept ghostly hauntings as the cause. From how they antagonize journalists and what they have said initially, this incident seems to have caused quite a large uproar. Although they keep saying that they do not acknowledge the ghostly hauntings, I feel that they cannot eliminate this possibility completely."

"Li Yin, you are saying..."

"There might be some people still alive now who saw the dead Bing Er, hence spreading the rumour about ghostly hauntings. After all, it is fundamentally more logical to believe that Ah Xiu killed them. But the elder is really concerned about us. He exhorted us repeatedly that anything we hear from Ah Xiu is a lie.

Why does he care so much whether we believe in Ah Xiu's words? Does whether we believe that this village is being haunted by ghosts have some meaning to the elder?"

"This..." Qin Shoutian also finds it difficult to answer this question, "The way the elder treats us so nicely is indeed unusual..."

"Xia Yuan told me that after the fourth instruction, everything will become more and more eerie, bizarre and unnatural. But this case seems to be a very simple revenge of a dead spirit. The evidence is too obvious. Although in reality, this is indeed already very strange, in comparison with the previous three bloody missions that I have previously accomplished, this is not very bizarre at all."

"Indeed..." Qin Shoutian also remembers his past experiences. During those times, many things remain unexplainable even till this day.

"Bing Er killed herself and became a ghost before she exacted revenge on the people who alienated and insulted her back when she was alive. Is everything this simple?" Li Yin uses a pen to point to a couple of key points on the paper. He says, "I notice one thing."

"What, what is it?"

"Water."

"Water?"

"Bing Er's every appearance is always somehow connected with water. The first time I entered this village, I saw the face of that ghost in the bucket that Ah Xiu was carrying. And Bing Er died in water. She even places the corpses into the water tank to give them to Ah Xiu. All of these are closely related with water. "

"That...That's true."

"Maybe she can only move between bodies of water? No, it shouldn't be that simple. But still, water is absolutely a sign that we cannot afford to overlook."

"Yeah...I get it."

At the same time, there is another person who cannot fall asleep... that person is Su Yue.

She lies on her bed alone, tossing and turning but unable to fall into slumber.

In the end, she gets up from her bed alone, and decides to take a walk near the fish pond outside of her room.

There is no moon tonight. This village is naturally enveloped by a vast darkness.

As she strolls around the fish pond, Su Yue cannot stop thinking about the once happy, lively Bing Er who always used to have a smile on her face. Then, she slowly squats down and begins to scoop up some water.

“Bing Er...” Without her noticing, her face is already covered in tears. “I am sorry, so sorry...”

Just then, she suddenly feels a chill wash over her.

Looking down at that inky dark fish pond, she can vaguely feel that within it, there is an unclear silhouette.

What is that?

Then, she hears footsteps behind her back.

She turns around and sees that amidst the darkness, there is someone walking slowly towards her.

“Who...who are you?!” Although Su Yue was feeling very scared at that moment, but she still calls out.

The other does not answer.

As the figure gets closer, she realises that that black silhouette is very distorted, almost as though there are no bones in its body!

Su Yue quickly stands up, trying to run away. But, it is already too late...

Without knowing when, that black silhouette has already appeared in front of her.

But it is too dark for her to see the other's face.

She hears the sound of running water carrying over from the fish pond in the back, as though something was rushing out.

The silhouette in front of her extends its hands and clasps tightly onto Su Yue's neck! Su Yue can only feel that the hand is completely soaked in water.

“Bing...Bing Er...” She feels as though her life is about to be extracted from her body.

As expected, she came back.

Before Su Yue dies, a ray of moonlight shines down. As her surroundings are bathed in moonlight, Su Yue sees it, Bing Er’s cold and white face.

<http://volaretranslations.com/apartment-from-hell/ah-chapter-9/>

Chapter 9 – The Feast of Blood (IV)

Suyue abruptly opens her eyes.

She is still lying on her bed. She hasn't gone outside at all.

Nightmare? Were those scenes just nightmares?

But when she reaches up to touch her neck, she realizes that her neck is completely covered with water!

Then... her sight shifts to the door of the bedroom.

She clearly shut that door before bed!

“Drip Drop...”

“Drip Drop...”

“Drip Drop...”

Droplets of water fall onto the floorboards.

A pair of bare feet glides slowly across the ground.

Moonlight shines through the window. In front of Suyue, a woman whose entire body is deathly white and continuously dripping water walks past the entrance of her door.

“Ahh...Ahhh...” Suyue opens her mouth, but she only can make some meaningless sounds as she watches this scene happen before her.

She sits on her bed blankly. After a long time, she finally gathers enough courage to climb up. Her pupils continuously shrink and dilate. She is too scared to say anything.

Standing up slowly, she drags her feet to the door. But every step she takes feels as heavy as a thousand-pound weight.

When she walks out through the door, there is no one there.

But on the floor, there are rows of water traces, proving that what just happened was not merely a dream.

Suyue feels as though her body is being immersed into the frigid cold of an ice cavern.

She raises her foot and keeps walking forward. Whenever her feet step onto the water, it would be incomparably cold. And at the same time...water begins to seep out endlessly from the ceiling and the walls.

The amount of water gradually increases.

Suyue reaches the door of her older brother's room. By now, water has begun to accumulate on the floor.

She can see that water is also seeping out from underneath the door of her brother's room. Suyue extends her hands and pushes the door open lightly.

Her brother is still lying on the bed, but there is water gushing from every crevice of his room. The strangest thing is that Ah Wu is sleeping very soundly, without even the slightest sign of waking up.

"O-Older brother... run, hurry, run..." Suyue uses all her strength to say these few words. But then, she could not continue to speak.

The cotton blanket covering her brother's chest puffs up!

Then the bulging blanket slowly moves upwards.

"Stop, Bing...Bing..." Although Suyue is saying this, she does not dare to move a step forward.

Suddenly, that blanket violently bulges even further and two pale hands reach towards Ah Wu!

"No—"

Suyue opens her eyes again!

She is still lying on her bed and there is no trace of water accumulating on the floor. The moon outside of the window is still covered by overcast clouds.

Another nightmare?

How is it possible to wake up from a nightmare inside of a dream?

At this moment, a black shadowy figure suddenly appears at her door, nearly causing Suyue to scream shrilly. But then, she hears a familiar voice.

“What’s wrong? Suyue?”

It’s actually her mother, Zhang Yinglan.

“Mama...” Suyue instantly begins to cry as she runs into her mother’s embrace. “I, I’m scared... I’m so scared...”

“This child, what are you scared of?”

“I had a dream... Bing Er, she’s back and she wants to kill older brother...”

Suyue’s mother Zhang Yinglan smiles as she says, “What are you talking about? That’s not possible, Bing Er is dead. How can she return?”

“But Papa... and Uncle Haotian and the rest...”

“Your father’s death...wasn’t related to any ghosts. Don’t listen to the villager’s nonsense. Ai, poor child, you are thinking too much.”

“Mama... can you sleep here with me?”

“Ah? You’re already a grown-up and you still want me to sleep together with you?”

“Please...Mama...”

“This kid,” Zhang Yinglan says. “Alright, I will go get my blanket.”

After her mother leaves, Suyue finally breathes a sigh of relief.

But after a while, she suddenly thinks of one thing.

Mother?

Hasn’t her mother been staying at Auntie Wang’s house to play mahjong for the past two days till now? Isn’t she even sleeping over there?

She did not come home today at all!

And at this moment...a black figure appears at her door once again!

“Ahhh— —.”

Suyue sits up abruptly on her bed again.

Another nightmare.

Suyue desperately gasps for air on her bed, looking around continuously.

Is this the reality? Or is she still in a nightmare?

She does not dare to continue sleeping. She simply sits up, puts on her clothes and rolls up her blankets before she walks towards her brother's room, thinking that for tonight, she will sleep there with him.

One nightmare after another, Su Yue can no longer endure this.

She finally comes to her older brother's door. She stills her heart and pushes the door open.

Her older brother is still lying on the bed, soundly fast asleep.

She walks over with light, cautious steps. Shaking the deeply asleep Ah Wu, Suyue whispers, “Brother, Brother! Wake up, I am Suyue!”

But Ah Wu seems to be sleeping too deeply. He does not even move.

Since Suyue can not wake him by shaking him, she simply decided to lie down beside him. This bed was quite big anyway. She curls up close to her older brother before closing her eyes.

Sleeping together with another person makes her feel much more relieved.

Following that, she falls asleep again without noticing.

Suddenly, in her semi-conscious state, she feels as though someone is pushing her. “Suyue, wake up. Wake up.”

It is her older brother's voice.

“Brother... Let me sleep for a bit more...”

“Wake up, Suyue!”

Suyue rubs her sleep-ridden eyes before opening them...

Her brother is in front of her, staring right at her.

But, why are her brother's eyeballs about to fall out and leaking blood?

And...why is his face completely pale without a single trace of blood?

Suyue abruptly jerks awake!

She widens her eyes.

That woman whose face is covered by her hair is now grabbing the sides of her brother's head and looking at her with a wicked smile.

Suyue immediately closes her eyes. When she opens them again, she is once again sleeping on her own bed.

Yet another nightmare.

It seems like this cycle will continue for an eternity, without stopping.

She does not know at all whether at this moment, she is in reality or still trapped in a dream. Was everything that just happened real or only an illusion? Is it possible that she will never be able to wake up?

Thinking about this possibility makes her feel as though her entire body is icy cold.

She grits her teeth, gets off the bed and walks out of the room. She feels her way into the kitchen...before picking up a sharp black knife.

Afterwards, she simply holds onto that knife and sits in the kitchen, preparing to endure her whole night like this. She does not want to fall asleep again. Hopefully, this moment is in reality!

Time passes by slowly...

Suddenly, she sees a black figure appear at the kitchen door! Although she cannot see the figure's face clearly, it is indeed that woman with messy hair covering her face!

She recklessly dashes forwards, piercing the chest of that black figure with her knife.

That black figure then grabs onto her face with both hands, but Suyue does

not even care. She pushes the black figure to the ground and stabs it again and again!

“Go to hell! Go to hell! Go and die. Die!”

Even when Suyue sees that black figure has stopped moving, she continues to stab it.

But when she has already stabbed it for more than a hundred times, suddenly...

“Drip drop...”

“Drip drop...”

This sound reaches her ears again!

Once again, Suyue opens her eyes, waking up from a nightmare!

How many more times does this need to repeat?

Suyue feels as though she is about to go insane.

What should I do so I can wake up from my nightmares?

What should I do?

Is all of this caused by Bing Er's vengeful spirit coming to take her life away? But what has she even done to Bing Er? Just because she was indifferent about the whole incident, now Bing Er is not letting her off?

Just because of this, she is coming here to torture her?

Gritting her teeth, Suyue flips her blanket open again.

She is determined to find out just how many layers this nightmare has!

She wanders around everywhere within her house on bare feet. But nothing seems out of the ordinary.

Suddenly, she hears footsteps.

Although they are faint, she clearly feels that there is someone walking past behind her!

She immediately turns around and follows it closely.

Then, she walks to the door of the kitchen again.

In the kitchen...as expected, there is a black figure!

But as soon as that black figure sees her, it instantly lifts the knife it is holding and stabs towards her!

After a brief moment of shock, she is already being pushed down by that black figure. And...then that black figure raises the sharp knife.

This time, she will not wake up from a nightmare again.

Chapter 10 – The Specter of the Water

When Luo Hengyan opens his eyes again, he suddenly finds himself...sitting in the middle of a forest.

How is this possible?

He was clearly just lying on the bed!

Then a danger sign is generated in his mind. Can...Can it be...

He immediately climbs to his feet and stands up. The dense forest is filled with endless darkness, as though a monster might appear from the inky darkness at any time.

At this instant, he feels very cold. But he dares not move an inch.

After all, the time he has been living in the apartment is too short for him to have much experience. At this moment, he is completely clueless as to how to handle this situation. But still, he does not understand: Why was he the one who was chosen?

There should not be any reason!

Just then, he suddenly hears a voice resounding from behind him, "You... Aren't you that person from the city?"

Turning around, he sees that the person speaking is surprisingly, Liang Renbin.

There is not only him. Song Tian, Ge Ling and Hong Wu are also following him.

"You guys..." Then, Hengyan understands something. "Can you guys also be..."

"We ended up here mysteriously when we woke up," Hong Wu looks all around him and says, "Could it be a prank that you guys pulled?"

"Nonsense!" Hengyan has no mood to argue with him now. But Songtian and Ge Ling appear to be especially scared. The calmest of them all is Liang Renbin.

He says without a trace of panic, "Let's walk back. We're close to the village anyways."

Only then does everyone then calm their spirits a little and move forward. At any rate, they are not that far away from the village. But Luo Hengyan is very nervous. He constantly looks at his own shadow, worrying that it might change. Fortunately, his shadow remains normal throughout. It seems like this is still within the apartment's assigned area for the Village of Tranquil Water.

"Renbin!" Song Tian suddenly shouts. "Ah Xiu... Has she undergone any weird changes recently?"

"What do you mean?" Liang Renbin asks, seemingly confused, "Your words, just what..."

"I, I..." Remembering that horrifying experience still makes Song Tian's whole body shiver. But he still gathers his courage and asks, "Is Ah Xiu doing something?"

He recently started to suspect: Could Ah Xiu have casted some voodoo spell on them? Or perhaps, she is the voodoo master that exists in legends? Because only that can explain the ghostly phenomenons that were happening to him.

"What nonsense are you spouting!" Liang Renbin says in anger, "What do you think Ah Xiu has done?"

"She... Is it possible that she knows some kind of sorcery? There's always a strange feeling around her. I, I suspect she knows how to summon ghosts. Otherwise, why is it such a coincidence that every time she curses us during Li Bing's commemoration day, those curses always come true? You see, Uncle Haotian and Ah Qin have both disappeared..."

"Shut up!"

Liang Renbin's temper explodes as he rushes forward, about to beat him up. Ah Wu quickly stops him. "Renbin, what are you doing!"

"I also think she is abnormal!" Ge Ling hurriedly supports Song Tian and says, "She always seems so murderous! Everyday, all she thinks about is how to get revenge on us. For Li Bing, I am afraid she can do anything! That's right, aren't there rumours about some voodoo master? Perhaps she's that kind of person?"

Or maybe she is summoning pen spirits or something like that.”

As Luo Hengyan stands to the side and listens to them quarrel about these kind of things, he really feels the onset of a headache.

Voodoo master? Of course not!

Xia Yuan has mentioned to them that the bloody instruction given by the apartment will purely be supernatural cursed situations in which no human factors will possibly be involved. Ah Xiu definitely cannot influence the bloody words.

But he has no way to point this out to them.

Right now, Luo Hengyan only wants to return to Ah Xiu’s house. After all, who knows what will

happen next if they remain in this shadowy and humid forest?

Humid...

He suddenly recalls that Li Yin’s warnings that “water” is a key factor.

Since this grassland is indeed very wet, Luo Hengyan instantly becomes more vigilant.

As time passes, he feels waves of ominous wind blow past and says, “Stop quarrelling guys... We, we should leave quickly!”

Just like that, those people stop quarrelling.

Luo Hengyan suddenly feels a bit strange... What is going on?

He senses there is something really unnatural, but he cannot tell where does this unnaturalness come from.

They continue walking. At this moment, Luo Hengyan is also very frightened and paranoid, constantly worrying that something will appear around him. And just at this time...

“Renbin! Ah Xiu... Has she undergone any weird changes recently?”

Luo Hengyan is shocked. Why... is this question asked again?

But this time it is Ge Ling asking instead of Song Tian.

The even more bizarre thing is that Liang Renbin does not appear to remember being asked this question at all. He reacts the same way as before, asking in confusion, “What does that mean? Your words, just what...”

Then Ge Ling replies, “Is Ah Xiu doing something?”

Instantly, Liang Renbin becomes angry again. He says, “What nonsense are you spewing! What do you think Ah Xiu has done?”

This conversation is exactly the same as the one before. The only difference is that Song Tian’s lines are spoken by Ge Ling.

Luo Hengyan immediately cuts her off, “You, why are you saying the exact same words as before?”

But Ge Ling completely disregards him and continues speaking, “She... Is it possible that she knows some kind of sorcery? There’s always a strange feeling around her. I, I suspect she knows how to summon ghosts. Otherwise, why is it such a coincidence that every time she curses us during Li Bing’s commemoration day, those curses always come true? You see, Uncle Haotian and Ah Qin have both disappeared...”

“Shut up!”

“I think she is abnormal!” This time, Ge Ling repeats what she said previously, “She always seems so violently murderous! Everyday, all she thinks about is how to get revenge on us. For Li Bing, I am afraid she can do anything! That’s right, aren’t there rumours about some voodoo master? Perhaps she’s that kind of person? Or maybe she is summoning pen spirits or something like that.”

This is completely akin to replaying a video tape. Once again, Liang Renbin rushes up before being restrained by Ah Wu...

“Enough, enough!”

Luo Hengyan yells at them to stop, “Are you guys insane? Why are you repeating the exact words as just now? Just what has happened to you all?”

Everyone looks at him as if they are watching an alien. As Ah Wu stares at him, he says, “What do you mean?”

“You guys have become so weird!” Luo Hengyan says, “Are you under the

influence of a curse? What's going on?"

This just like what Xia Yuan said before.

The further down the line, the more inscrutable and incomprehensible the bloody missions become, completely exceeding the boundaries of common sense.

And he also said that during these kinds of situations, first of all, they should not panic but instead, try every means to find the rules and patterns governing these strange phenomena.

But right now, Luo Hengyan is losing his ability to think clearly. After all, his intelligence and maturity are not even on par with Li Yin and Qin Shoutian, and simply incomparable to Xia Yuan. He simply believes that the people in front of him are under the influence of some wicked spell.

Hence, he stops paying attention to them. Turning around, he runs away.

Very soon, he begins to notice... that he seems to be walking in circles around the same place. The scenery around him barely underwent any changes at all. The only reason he failed to notice this at the start is simply because from the very beginning, this forest is filled everywhere with trees and grass.

Looking at this scene now, it is truly very ominous.

At this time, he hears footsteps behind him. Luo Hengyan turns to look – It is them again!

And that bizarre scene repeats itself once more...

"Renbin..." The person who is asking at this point changes to Ah Wu, "Ah Xiu... Has she undergone any weird changes recently?"

At that moment, Luo Hengyan feels as though the unnaturalness of this place is becoming more and more intense.

"What do you mean? Your words, just what..." Renbin's expression is still one of suspicion, as though he hasn't been asked this exact same question twice before at all.

And even more bizarrely, Ah Wu continues to say the same words Song Tian and Ge Ling said before, "Is Ah Xiu doing something?"

“What nonsense are you spouting?! What do you think Ah Xiu has done?”

“She... Is it possible that she knows some kind of sorcery? There’s always a strange feeling around her. I, I suspect she knows how to summon ghosts. Otherwise, why is it such a coincidence that every time she curses us during Li Bing’s commemoration day, those curses always come true? You see, Uncle Haotian and Ah Qin have both disappeared...”

“Shut up!”

“I think she is abnormal! She always seems so violently murderous! Everyday, all she thinks about is how to get revenge on us. For Li Bing, I am afraid she can do anything! That’s right, aren’t there rumours about some voodoo master? Perhaps she’s that kind of person? Or maybe she is summoning pen spirits or something like that.”

Exactly the same! It is as though Ah Wu has been possessed by Song Tian and Ge Ling.

Liang Renbin loses his temper once again, shoots forward like an arrow and aims a fist towards Ah Wu! There is a lot of force behind this punch that flips Ah Wu off his feet onto the ground. His nose has even started bleeding.

Just now, it was Ah Wu who restrained Liang Renbin but now...he is the one who got punched instead.

Following that, Liang Renbin straddles Ah Wu beneath him, aiming punch after punch at his face!

“Stop...stop it...” Luo Hengyan wants to go forward to stop them but his feet feel as heavy as though they had become filled with lead.

Stop...

Please stop...!

The scene happening before his eyes is akin to a shadowy spiral. He feels as though his body is being sucked into this spiral.

At this moment, Li Yin and Qin Shoutian who discovered Luo Hengyan’s disappearance are searching everywhere for him.

“Hengyan! Hengyan! Luo Hengyan!” Li Yin calls out his name repeatedly,

hoping that he can hear him. But no matter how they search, there is no trace of him.

Just then, Li Yin suddenly feels as though someone has approached him from behind and hurriedly turns his head.

What enters his gaze is Ah Xiu!

“Ah...Ah Xiu, you...”

“Who are you all searching for?” Ah Xiu smiles and says. “Mr Luo has disappeared?”

“That’s, that’s correct...” Li Yin nods. “He was just sleeping in the outer room but...now...”

“He’ll be fine. I think Mr Luo has probably gone somewhere for a walk.”

There is not a single hint of anxiety on Ah Xiu’s face, as she continues talking casually with a smile. But this sends a shiver down Li Yin’s spine. *She, just what...*

“What is it? Mr Li Yin?” Step by step, Ah Xiu comes closer to him as Li Yin subconsciously begins to retreat.

“You...” Li Yin’s expression is heavily coloured by suspicion as he asks, “Who exactly are you?”

Xia Yuan told him that humans will not be factored into these supernatural, eerie scenarios.

Towards this, Li Yin doesn’t have any qualms.

But...

Is Ah Xiu really a human?

Is there any evidence that can prove that she is a human being?

Ah Xiu continues talking without answering the question, “This village, this Village of Tranquil Water develops by relying on the excellent mountain ranges and water source of the Black Crow Mountain. And even in this big mountain, we can still live self-sustainably. My parents and Sister Bing Er’s parents worked hard to build and develop this village. Did you know that, Mr. Li Yin? It was truly difficult to establish a village like this. I had to dig soil, carry water and wake up

every day the moment the sun rises since the day I was born. For me, this mountain, this water are unerasable memories. Although those times were hard, they were the best and the most precious memories that Sister Bing Er and I share. And as farmers, we deeply believe that hard work will always bring happiness.”

“Miss...Miss Ah Xiu...”

“But now I truly hope that this village will be destroyed. Will hard work truly bring happiness? It’s all lies. Although Sister Bing Er and her mother contributed so much to the development of this village, their pain is ignored because of the villagers’ arrogant standards. They kicked Sister down to the abyss of hell, and even pushed her to her death...”

“Stop, stop talking... Miss Ah Xiu...”

“So what if she’s become a ghost?” Ah Xiu’s face suddenly twists and her tone becomes more and more vicious. She says, “Even when Sister Bing Er turns into a raging spirit, she is still more beautiful than those villagers!”

“No... It is not like this...” Sweat continuously pours down from Li Yin’s forehead. But he still continues retreating as he says, “You don’t know at all... You don’t understand what true hell is... Do you know what the true hell is like? It is truly...terrifying...”

Luo Hengyan treads through the dark forest.

Liang Renbin is walking in front of him.

“Renbin...” Even as those words just left his mouth, Luo Hengyan feels an incomparably bizarre sensation, but he continues speaking expressionlessly. “Ah Xiu...Has she undergone any weird changes recently?”

This time... It has become he himself!

So it seems... he has no choice in this matter. He spoke those words against his will!

After saying words like “voodoo master” and “pen spirit”, Liang Renbin turns around, his gaze twisting into a death glare. He rushes up, pushes Luo Hengyan to the ground, waves his fists and punches him.

Luo Hengyan suddenly realizes just what is giving him an unnatural feeling...

It is because in every cycle of that conversation...

One of the five people will have mysteriously disappeared.

The first person who spoke was Song Tian. After he disappeared, it became Ge Ling. And after her, it was Ah Wu.

But now, Ah Wu also disappeared! But to include him as well, he could only feel a sense of foreboding!

Where have they all disappeared to?

Soon, he gets his answer.

In front of his eyes, it is no longer Liang Renbin who is hitting him. Instead, it is... a woman dressed in white whose body is about few meters tall.

When that woman opens her mouth, her gaping lips actually extends to about two meters long!

Inside of her mouth... a huge amount of water has accumulated! Song Tian, Ge Ling, Ah Wu and Liang Renbin, the four of them are struggling desperately in that water.

The mouth of this enormous woman gets closer and closer to Luo Hengyan...

Chapter 11 – The Shore That Cannot Be Reached

“True hell?”

Ah Xiu looks at Li Yin in front of her with confusion, as the latter becomes more and more upset.

His deepest fear, Hengyan’s disappearance, has finally happened.

Although he has expected something like this to happen since long ago, he was truly hoping that they can pass this month safely. Now it seems like that is impossible.

Based on his past experiences and Xia Yuan’s words, a conclusion can roughly be deduced.

To be missing at the location appointed by the bloody words is basically equivalent to death. Although this is what he is thinking, Li Yin still finds it hard to accept that Luo Hengyan has died just like this.

He still remembers that when Luo Hengyan’s shadow first entered the apartment — his panicked and agonised expression, almost as though he was about to cry. It was Li Yin who comforted him and told him that he could leave after completing ten bloody missions. Although no one knew just how many years that would take, at least there was hope.

But now... that person who finally found his light again, and wished to continue living on...

In that apartment, although there exists trust amongst residents, there also exist layers of emotional defence. And the residents who Li Yin can truly trust and open his heart to are only Xia Yuan, Ye Kexin, Luo Hengyan, the Hua Liancheng couple and the surgeon Tang Lanxuan who lives in room 106.

The last time, after Li Yin escaped from hell and returned to the apartment, the six of them gathered in the Hua Liancheng couple’s room and ate a meal of

hotpot together. After all, in the hellish apartment, staying alive is the biggest happiness. At that time, Luo Hengyan had also escaped death and returned to the apartment so everyone had agreed that this definitely called for a celebration.

That day was one of the few happy days amidst the time they spent living in that apartment. Everyone chatted and laughed, sharing stories of their past and hoping that they can leave this apartment together.

All of them were hoping for the arrival of that day.

But in their hearts, they knew very clearly that ultimately, very few people can leave the apartment. No one can remove the curse on their shadows casted by the apartment, so they have no choice but to act according to the apartment's rules.

However, Li Yin still hoped that he could continue living with Luo Hengyan and the others, eventually leaving the apartment together!

But now, isn't that hope shattered?

At this time, Qin Shoutian enters that dense forest to look for Luo Hengyan. Although he hasn't had many interactions with Luo Hengyan, he has a good impression of that humble and honest youngster.

In the apartment, although it is already difficult enough to keep their own bodies intact, they will still mourn the loss of one of their kin when another resident dies. After all, they all carry the same burden.

Qin Shoutian truly does not wish to see people around him die just like this.

Suddenly...

A violently gushing river about ten meters wide appears before his eyes.

"How..."

Qin Shoutian is instantly stunned. Normally, there shouldn't be a river here! Just what is going on?

At this moment, he is only five meters away from that river, but he does not dare to take another step forward.

In this dimly-lit dense forest, under a sky without a trace of light, for a bizarre river to appear like this makes Qin Shoutian shiver even though he did not feel cold. At this moment, Li Yin's words resound in his mind.

“Water...”

Although he wants to retreat, Qin Shoutian could not help but worry about Luo Hengyan.

Go back... Or... move forward?

As he thinks about this, he looks down... But the moment that he lowers his head, what he sees makes him release a shout of terror!

That river which was originally five meters away from him is now only a few centimeters away from his feet.

It actually moved?

When did this happen?

As expected, it is just like Xia Yuan has said. The later it gets, the more bizarre the bloody missions get.

Run away!

Qin Shoutian does not hesitate at all. He turns around and begins to sprint away but... he actually ends up taking a step into water! Then, his entire body begins to sink downwards.

It is fortunate that Qin Shoutian's swimming skills are pretty good. Without too much consideration, he immediately swims towards the shore.

But...

Although he is swimming without pause, after more than two minutes, he still cannot reach the shore. Even if this shore... is clearly right before his eyes!

Ominous... This bizarre situation that has escalated far beyond Qin Shoutian's imagination is already completely wearing him down!

The previous bloody missions have never been this inconceivable! It is as if he does not exist in a real world at all!

And Qin Shoutian has also realised another thing.

That is...

This river has become so much wider than before! Its width has increased to roughly at least tens of metres wide. As for its depth, he approximates that it definitely exceeds ten meters, perhaps even deeper!

To be unable to swim to the shore in a deep river like this... is this not certain death? Once he has completely depleted his strength, then death is the only result!

“Li Yin!” Qin Shoutian shouts desperately, straining his voice. “Help! Li Yin, Li Yin!”

His cell phone has become completely water-logged and is unuseable. He can only scream and hope that Li Yin will be able to hear him. He is already yelling Li Yin’s name at the top of his lungs but even if he yells until his throat is hoarse, he needs Li Yin to hear his voice!

At this time... Li Yin can vaguely hear that someone is calling his name.

“Who is it?” Li Yin instantly directs his sight towards the dense forest behind the village. After listening carefully, he once again faintly hears the voice that is calling for him.

“Hengyan? Shoutian? ” He immediately becomes very nervous and hurriedly sprints towards the forest.

Behind him, Ah Xiu watches his retreating figure. The corners of her lips curve into the shadow of an ominous smile.

Li Yin uses all his strength to dash forward, searching for the source of the voice while yelling as loudly as he can, “Hengyan! Is that you? Hengyan! Shoutian, are you here? Answer me! Where are you!”

He does not want to see people die anymore!

Already... He has already seen too many people dying in front of him!

“Answer me! Shoutian!”

Li Yin’s shouts till his voice is almost gone. Just when he is about to give in to despair, he hears Shoutian’s voice traveling from ahead.

“I am here... Li Yin, help me!”

At this time, Ah Xiu returns to her home.

She shuts the door before leaning against it, speaking to herself. “Soon... Sister Bing Er, everything will end soon. Everything will be over.”

Slowly, she walks back to her room and sees Ye Kexin who is still deeply asleep on the bed.

“Although I don’t know why Sister Bing Er is targeting you... she surely has her reasons to do so. You all must have done something against Sister’s good will.”

Following that, step by step, she walks into the kitchen towards the water tank.

At this moment, Qin Shoutian is already at the center of the river. Swept along by the incredibly violent currents, he gradually gets tired.

The river has already exceeded a hundred meters wide at this point.

Just as he is about to be lost hope, he suddenly sees a light flashing in the distance. Then... he spots Li Yin rushing towards him with a torch!

When Li Yin sees this wide river and Qin Shoutian who is struggling consciously in the water, he quickly pulls off his shirt and prepares to jump into the river!

But Qin Shoutian instead shouts, “Li Yin! Don’t jump down, you will never return to the shore after you jump! Grab a rope and pull! Pull me up!”

“Alright! Hang in there!”

After saying this, Li Yin puts down the backpack he is carrying. He unzips the zipper and takes out a very long and thick rope.

Since they must come to these kinds of dangerous places, they obviously need to be prepared. It is definitely a must to bring all kinds of emergency kits and medicine, as well as some weapons. Only, it is unfortunate that purchasing guns in China is difficult so they only have some cold military weapons.

“Shoutian, swim closer!” While saying this, Li Yin pulls out that coiled lump of long rope and prepares to throw it towards Qin Shoutian.

This thick and long hemp rope is about tens of meters long. It is fortunate that

the backpack is big enough to fit it. Li Yin is also very nervous. Although he has trained himself many times in the past in order to deal with this kind of situation, it is still his first time using this rope.

Qin Shoutian immediately continues to swims towards the shore. Though the current is flowing against the movement of his body, his will to stay alive leads him to endure it desperately.

“I am going to throw it!”

That long rope flies across the sky before Qin Shoutian reaches out with his right hand, grabbing onto one end of the rope very tightly. He then ties the rope on his arm firmly!

“Nice!”

Li Yin takes a breath and is about to pull the rope in when suddenly, he feels something his feet getting wet... Then his body abruptly gets pulled down, falling into the water!

“No!”

But the endless water has already surrounded Li Yin’s body. He immediately tries to grab onto the shore, but it is already five or six meters away from him!

“How is this possible! This damn apartment! How can it leave me without a way out of this?!”

Even so Li Yin is still grabbing onto the rope tightly as he begins to swim towards the shore desperately. But no matter how hard he swims, he still cannot reach land. In fact, he is gradually being pulled further and further away from the shore.

“No... No!”

Li Yin’s heart instantly sinks.

He is going to die...

Die here in this Village of Tranquil Water!

He will be dead on only the fourth bloody mission?

This is just the fourth time!

Li Yin also knows how to swim but if he keeps struggling like this, sooner or later his strength will be completely used up! In addition, this water is flowing very fiercely. It is only a matter of time before they both perish in this river!

“No! I don’t want to die, I don’t want to die—”

At this time, in the middle of the river, there suddenly appears... a huge whirlpool! This whirlpool sucks Li Yin and Qin Shoutian in. Both of them are helplessly churned towards the center of the river.

Li Yin and Qin Shoutian are extremely dizzy from the spiraling motion of the current. They don’t even know how much water they have inhaled. As the current gets more rapid, they can no tread water to stay afloat!

“Catch the rope! Li Yin!”

This unexpected voice is like angelic music to their ears! Li Yin struggled to open his eyes and when he sees a thick and long rope being thrown downwards from the sky, he hurriedly reaches out and grabs it!

At this moment, only one of Qin Shoutian’s hands still remains above the surface of the water. He is about five or six meters away from Li Yin but in this huge whirlpool, that distance might as well be the distance between heaven and earth!

Li Yin holds onto the hemp rope with all his strength. This is the biggest hope for him to stay alive!

“Hold on tight! I am going to pull you up!”

This...

Kexin’s voice!

Ye Kexin was already awake before Ah Xiu came back. She was just pretending to be asleep. When she heard Ah Xiu’s strange mumblings, she immediately grabbed her backpack and rushed out of the house eventually finding her way to this dense forest.

As Li Yin grasps the rope with a death grip, Qin Shoutian’s body has completely sunk into the water.

“Kexin!” Li Yin shouts, “Stay away from this river! It will move near your feet

automatically!”

If Kexin also falls into the water, then everything will be over!

Although Kexin is a girl, every resident in the apartment goes to the gym daily to train their bodies so in these three years, her arm power has become very strong. And she always carry a hemp rope inside of her backpack.

After hearing Li Yin say this, Kexin quickly retreats and pays constant attention to where she is stepping, all while ceaselessly pulling Li Yin in.

This rope was chosen personally by Xia Yuan, so it is needless to mention just how strong it is. Since Kexin has quite some strength, within the blink of an eye, Li Yin is only about ten meters away from the shore.

Li Yin whose body is fully immersed in the water starts to feel as though his luck has turned slightly. Simultaneously, that whirlpool seems to have quietened down.

But then... something more horrifying happens.

Kexin suddenly feels the earth shaking beneath her feet. Then... the ground around that river begins to rumble before rising upwards.

In fact if one is looking down from the sky, then he will find out this river is shaped like a circle.

“Li Yin!” Kexin is very shocked as she continues to rapidly reel in the rope. But just then... that entire piece of land containing the river rises up unexpectedly!

At this moment of imminent danger, Li Yin finally almost reaches the shore. And right now, this river is already five meters high.

Then Kexin’s pupils dilate. What has appeared before her eyes is simply an unimaginable nightmare!

The surface of the floor is rumbles continuously before a huge white eye appears on the dirt beneath the river.

This river...

Is actually the insides of that huge woman’s mouth!

Chapter 12 – The Truth

Li Yin is still not clear on what is going on right now. By the time his body reaches the edge of the riverbank, he is already more than ten meters above the ground!

If he falls from this height...

But he cannot hesitate!

He grabs the rope tightly, steps onto the riverbank and abruptly jumps down.

It is also at this exact moment that giant woman's mouth suddenly closes. Then her incomparably titanic head also dissolves into stream of wispy smoke, leaving no traces behind.

Li Yin's body hits the ground. Since the ground beneath him is completely covered with damp grass and further beneath the grass is only dirt, he did not suffer any serious injuries. Still, he feels heart-piercing agony surging through his aching body.

But seeing that enormous head was such a bizarre and horrifying scene that Li Yin already completely forgets about the pain.

"Li...Li Yin..."

Having lived in the apartment for three years, the fact that Ye Kexin is still alive today is naturally indicative that she has seen many strange, unexplainable sights, so by now she is already numb to them. On the other hand, Li Yin is extremely terrified. This kind of exaggeratedly horrifying scene makes him feel as though a bone-chilling cold has descended over his entire being.

"We... need to stay in such a horrifying village... for an entire month?"

Li Yin's brain is completely blank at this moment.

Although he has predicted many kinds of scenarios, but the actual situation

has far exceeded his estimations!

“Kexin...” At this time, Li Yin’s body is completely covered in water, but he does not know what to do next.

Only one third of the month has passed. Just how... should they endure the rest?

And what now? What should they do next?

“I was too naïve. I believed that I was quite experienced after living in the apartment for a year. But when I compare myself to Xia Yuan, I am still too incompetent.”

Kexin sighs and says, “Leave it be, Li Yin. It doesn’t matter as long as you’re still alive. Let’s leave first...”

“Shoutian is dead.”

After Kexin hears Li Yin say this sentence, her heart instantly sinks.

“He... He is dead?”

“Yes. He was also in the water just now.”

“How did that happen...” Ye Kexin lowers her head, feeling a bitter pain in her heart.

Throughout these three years, so many residents have died around Kexin that she is almost apathetic. Last time, she barely escaped from death after much suffering together with Shoutian. Who would imagine that this time...

But Kexin did not shed any tears. It is not her first time experiencing this kind of thing. After entering that apartment, her tears have already dried from crying excessively.

“But... At least you’re still alive, Li Yin.” Kexin helps him up and says, “We have to help each other to survive through this month! Yeah, there is just a bit over two weeks before we can leave this Village of Tranquil Water. ”

There are still two more weeks...

“There aren’t any places that are safe.”

Li Yin understands this point well.

This Village of Tranquil Water... There will not exist any place that will let them spend this month in peace! In the following days, these kind of otherworldly situations will almost certainly occur continuously.

This 'Bing Er'... What exactly will satisfy her? Why does she want to kill even Shoutian and himself? Hengyan, is he still alive? Unfortunately, the chance of bad news exceeds that of good news.

If Bing Er's objective is to take revenge on the villagers who hurt her, then there is no reason for her to come after him as well. Thus, it can only be assumed that she has become a malicious ghost that kills indistinguishably.

Then... what about Ah Xiu?

Perhaps Bing Er will not lay her hands on Ah Xiu?

This deduction is highly probable. Then if they show kindness to Ah Xiu, is it possible that they can escape death?

"Let's go back to Ah Xiu's house."

At this moment, this is his only choice.

No matter how dangerous she is, as of now he can only rely Ah Xiu, his only saving grace.

The two of them return to Ah Xiu's house. When they knock on the door, they hear Ah Xiu's voice ask vigilantly, "Who is that?"

"It's us." Li Yin says weakly, "Miss Ah Xiu... Please open the door."

When Ah Xiu opens the door, Li Yin peeks into the house and spots a person lying in the room.

It is Liang Renbin.

At this moment, his tongue has already been cut off. Lying on the ground with his body completely soaked in water, he should definitely be dead,

"Ah, I let you guys see that." Ah Xiu's expression is completely indifferent. "Whatever, you already know anyway. I was just cutting off his tongue."

"Ah Xiu..." Li Yin does not dare to offend her so he could only say, "Please stop. Can you think of any way to communicate with Bing Er and ask her to stop killing

people...”

“Shut up!” Ah Xiu says coldly, “What qualification do you have to say the name ‘Bing Er’?”

“You...”

“Although I don’t understand why Sister Bing Er took action against you guys, she must have her reasons for doing so,” she says with a frigid smile, “Alright, come on in. You can continue staying here. But don’t forget to report those things! Otherwise why would I house you guys?”

Insane...

This woman has gone insane for sure!

But what can they do even if she has gone insane? This crazy woman is their only hope at staying alive in this Village of Tranquil Water.

The next day... The disappearance of Renbin, Ah Wu and the other people evokes a huge disturbance in the village. Although there have been people who went missing in past years, there are just way too many people who have disappeared this year! Moreover, both the elder’s grandson and granddaughter are missing!

However, even though more and more people suspect Ah Xiu, no one dares to challenge her.

The reason is simple. Since the rumours of ghostly hauntings have already spread widely and have ingrained into the hearts of many people, then wouldn’t hurting Ah Xiu who is closest to Bing Er be equivalent to courting death?

After this day, once the villagers spott Bing Er, they will all take a detour to avoid her out of fear. No one dares to speak anything bad about her. Moreover a lot of people fawn over her instead, sending a lot of food to her and some even helping her to water her plants and cultivate her land.

However, in the following days, it is uncannily quiet. No strange situations happened.

Perhaps after killing so many people all at once, even Bing Er also wants to temporarily take a break?

So... Just like this, July 7th finally arrives surrounded by emotions of great paranoia.

Li Yin and Ye Kexin are both feeling a bit more relaxed, but they are both certain... that before 12 midnight today, there will definitely be some extremely horrifying things happening.

“You are leaving right at 12 o’ clock at midnight?”

At the dinner table, Ah Xiu is a bit surprised but she soon says, “Alright... Then please report well. Anyway, if you don’t report... You understand the consequences.”

Consequences... Li Yin obviously understands. But he has not the slightest intention to report any news.

No matter how malicious and cruel the ghosts they meet are, as long as they can escape back to the apartment, they will be completely safe.

Though that apartment is terrifying, it is also their safest haven. Xia Yuan has mentioned many times that he is already completely convinced that no matter how horrifying the ghosts are, they cannot enter the apartment.

After eating dinner, Li Yin and Kexin instantly begin to gather their belongings and prepare for their departure.

“You’re leaving so soon?” Ah Xiu is still tidying up the dishes on the table. She asks in confusion, “Why are you leaving in such a hurry?”

“We have some urgent matters to attend to and need to leave at night...”

“But it takes a lot of time to cross the Black Crow Mountain. And right now, there are no buses heading down the mountain so how are you leaving?”

“Our car was parked at the foot of the mountain so there should not be any problems.”

“Oh? Well, it’s up to you.”

Then, the two of them leave hurriedly, as though they were fleeing.

Throughout this month, Li Yin and Kexin have been extremely friendly and kind to Ah Xiu, helping her do her chores many times and trying their best to alleviate

her workload. They hope that since Bing Er had such a good relationship with her, behaving like this grant them her mercy.

Of course, if they can survive so easily, then their fourth bloody instruction will be way too simple. Even Li Yin himself does not believe in this possibility.

Only after walking to the borders of the village do Li Yin and Kexin decide to stop and sit down.

Both of them are looking at the watches on their wrists.

In order to prevent any mistakes on the time showing up on the watch, all of the residents bought famous branded watches from Switzerland. Although these watches were very expensive, they cannot be stingy about this money. If they make a mistake regarding the time and leave the village early, then their shadows will manipulate them to kill themselves. That would be the feeling of wanting of cry but not being able to shed tears.

“Li Yin...” At this moment, Kexin is extremely nervous. Her heart palpitates continuously. Finally...they are going to leave this village!

“Listen well, Kexin,” Li Yin says with a solemn expression. “That mountain path is very hard to navigate. I’m afraid this trip will be incredibly difficult for us. Even if the trip goes smoothly, it will still take us three hours to reach the bottom of the mountain. Driving to City K by car will probably take around two hours. And from the time we enter the city to the time we arrive at the apartment will also take around another hour.”

Six hours!

These six hours will decide their life or death!

If they can enter the apartment after these six hours, then they can continue to live!

“Xia Yuan told me...” Li Yin raises another point. “Although this apartment is extremely cruel and in many situations, dying seems like the only possibility, a small amount of people will retain the possibility of staying alive. So...we must never give up!”

Kexin nods her head.

How can she not understand this principle after three years?

Although six hours is a long time, it is not possible for the ghosts will not attack every second. Otherwise, trapped in their mortal bodies of flesh and blood, how could Xia Yuan and Ye Kexin have stayed alive till today?

Time continuous to flow past. It gets closer and closer to 12 o'clock midnight.

At Ah Xiu's house in the Village of Tranquil Water.

In the kitchen, the water tank's lid has already been opened.

"The elder's family is shattering from pain... Haha, that's so funny." The expression Ah Xiu's face is extremely twisted, the malice in her eyes akin to those of a demon. She holds a pair of scissors in her hand and says, "Sister Bing Er... What a good job you did at killing them. You killed all of them! Ah, right. There's still Ah Wu and Suyue's mother. She needs to die as well because she also slandered you. Right, you should also kill her tomorrow so I can cut off her tongue. Haha, not bad right... Ah, ah?"

A hand suddenly reaches out from the water tank!

A contorted, boneless body rises slowly from the water tank.

Messy hair drifting around a miserably pale face; both arms dangling and swinging purposelessly.

From a towering height, the woman looks down at Ah Xiu. Her body is so tall that she touches the ceiling.

"Sister Bing Er..." Ah Xiu shouts excitedly, "You are finally, finally willing to see me!"

At this moment, Li Yin who is still at the edge of the village checks his watch again... In less than five minutes, they will be able to leave the village!

"We'll be departing soon..." Li Yin continues to vigilantly keep watch over his surroundings. Suddenly, he notices a human figure approaching him!

"Who..." Li Yin instantly panicks, shouting loudly, "Who are you?!"

He grabs his torch and directs the light towards the figure. It is actually a very young woman who looks to be only 24 or 25. Judging from her clothing, it

appears that she comes from the city. In one hand, she carries a handbag.

“You?” Li Yin gazes at this woman. It appears to be “human”.

“Who are you guys?” That woman says in surprise, “Can it be the elder is sending people to welcome me? That can’t be. I didn’t tell him that I am coming today.”

“I...” Li Yin is confused and asks immediately, “You know the Elder?”

“Yes. Your clothing... You don’t seem like you are villagers. Who are you guys?”

“We are here to see the sights and experience some farmhouse traditions.”

“Oh?” That woman laughs understandingly and says, “Quite interesting! But why are you staying out here in the middle of the night?”

“This...”

“Alright, whatever. I am going to look around the village. Haven’t been back in years....”

“Excuse me, Miss, you used to live in this village?” Li Yin asks.

“Ah...” The pleasant smile remains on her face as she says, “That’s right. I left the village quite a few years ago. Two months earlier, I wrote a letter to the Elder saying that I am coming back to invest in this village to help it prosper.”

“What? You are...”

“Ah, right. I forgot to introduce myself. My name is— Li Bing.”

In Ah Xiu’s house, that tall and huge woman draped in a white cloth extends her hand slowly and reaches toward Ah Xiu... That pair of pupil-less eyes emanate waves of ghastly and terror.

Chapter 13 – The Malicious Spirit in the Water

At this moment, the extent of Li Yin's shock far exceeds that of any other time!

"What, what's going on?" Li Bing looks uncomprehendingly at Li Yin and Kexin's dumbfounded expressions before she seems to understand something and says, "Oh, I get it. The villagers told you guys that I am dead, right? That year I truly wanted to jump off the waterfall. I even went so far as to take off my shoes. But when I was about to jump... I felt unreconciled dying just like this. So I left the village, intending to look for my father first... "

Li Yin carefully recalls all that has happened. No one in the village actually said Li Bing's corpse was found. They only said that she killed herself by jumping off the waterfall and the only evidence for this deduction were the shoes that she left behind.

Since the water currents are so rapid, it is entirely logical that no corpse would be found. It is thus no wonder that the villagers would mistakenly assume that Li Bing has died. "You... You just said that you wrote a letter to the Elder two months ago?" Li Yin suddenly asks, "Then why didn't the Elder tell everyone?"

"Ah... I asked him to keep this confidential. After leaving the village, although I did not find my father, I depended on my job in the city, established my business and eventually opened a small restaurant. I never thought that the restaurant will end up developing into a chain restaurant after a few years. I founded a company and became the CEO... After earning so much money, the first thing that I considered was this village. Although I carried such painful memories, this village was where my parents, Ah Xiu, Suyue and the rest are... These are all unforgettable memories. So I decided to return here to invest so the village can prosper. But I want to give Ah Xiu a surprise. I will personally show up in front of her and tell her that I am still alive. Ah, Ah Xiu is... "

"I know," Li Yin interrupts her. "Ah Xiu misses you a lot."

“Is that so... Is she alright?”

Right now, can Ah Xiu count as being alright?

“I also told the Elder that I might first send a few managers from the company to inspect the village so they can draw up detailed investment plans. But in order to avoid unnecessary rumours, the managers will claim that they are here to experience the farm life. And I also asked the elder to keep this a secret and treat the managers nicely. In addition, even in front of the Elder, they won't mention me so they really be seen as people who are here to experience the farm life... But afterwards, I still decided to come here on my own.”

So it is like this!

The Elder assumed that Li Yin's group were the people sent by Bing Er! And the boss he mentioned is obviously Bing Er! No wonder he was so obsequious, even asking them to explore the village and look around...

Then, a question surfaces...

That gigantic woman who killed Hengyan and Shoutian...

Who?

Who is she?

At this time, Ah Xiu is still standing in front of that gigantic woman, treating her as “Sister Bing Er”.

“Sister Bing Er...” Ah Xiu almost breaks into tears from joy. She walks slowly towards that gigantic woman. But... in an instant, that huge woman grabs onto her body tightly before dragging her entire body into the water tank!

Even at the moment of her death, Ah Xiu still does not understand why “Sister Bing Er” wants to kill her.

“We need to escape quickly...” A shiver abruptly passes over Li Yin's body!

Li Bing is still alive, so... That female ghost, no matter who she is, will definitely not show them mercy because of Ah Xiu.

At this moment, the hands of his watch finally overlap on 12!

Twelve o'clock midnight!

“Run! Kexin!”

Li Bing, who is standing at the side, jumps in fright when Li Yin’s roar resounds like a clap of thunder. Then Li Yin and Kexin begin to sprint forward desperately with large strides.

During their time living in the apartment, they dedicated a large amount of their body-building time to training their running skills. To be honest, if a ghost really wants to kill someone, he will not stay alive even if he can run as fast as Liu Xiang. But ultimately, fast runners generally have better chances of survival.

Li Bing is a little nonplussed but right now, her desire to see Ah Xiu as soon as possible is overwhelming. Otherwise she will not have rushed here to arrive in the village at this time. Just when she first stepped foot the village, she suddenly feels a translucent figure brush past her shoulder!

“What... What was that?”

Li Bing suddenly feels an icy chill course through her entire body...

“Kexin, you have to be careful of water. Don’t get close to places containing water!”

Li Yin holds Kexin’s hand tightly. The two of them walk side by side on the mountain road. As of now, they are not running but rather simply trying to take larger steps. After all, there is still a long distance to go and if they start sprinting now, there is no way that they can keep walking for the rest of the journey.

This mountain trail is indeed very difficult to navigate. Li Yin constantly pays vigilant attention to their surroundings. Although there are currently no movement, he knows well that even a slight moment of carelessness could lead to death.

Stay alive!

Must stay alive!

Right now, Kexin is also like a bird startled by a bowstring, turning her head to check behind her every two steps. She alternates between looking upwards and downwards, afraid that the ghost might come from a random place.

After all, over the past three years, there have been quite a number of times

where she only narrowly escaped the Yellow Springs. She remembers that the most perilous time once was within a haunted house. She was already hanging from a rope dangling from a ceiling beam. At the instant when she was about to die from suffocation, Xia Yuan found her just in time and saved her by cutting the rope. At that time, she had completely given up all hope, thinking that she would really meet her end.

Having lived through that kind of experience only reinforces her will to live!

When there are still no signs of any ghosts after walking for about twenty minutes, she finally calms her heart while hurrying along the road. But Li Yin continues to be on guard.

Xia Yuan once mentioned to him that there were actually quite a number of people who endured the span of the bloody mission safely, but died on their way back to the apartment. In fact, many people even perished right in front of the apartment's door.

Just then, from the corner of his eyes, Li Yin suddenly glances a white figure flash past rapidly in between two trees before him!

"That... That is..." Kexin also saw that white figure. She instantly collapses, feeling as though her legs have become jelly.

Li Yin drags her up immediately. They expand their steps and dash forward wildly! Of course, even while Li Yin is sprinting, his sight will not leave the compass in his hand. If they misread their direction, then that would really be a cause for tearless grief.

After they have run continuously for about five or six minutes, Li Yin feels fatigue wearing down his body. Kexin is not any better than him. Both of them begin to run out of breath.

"Li... Li Yin..." Kexin speaks between gasps, "She... didn't catch up right?"

"Don't, don't know..." At this point, Li Yin is also checking his surroundings. He looks up and down, left and right, front and back but there are only rows of trees and mountain rocks surrounding him in an ominous silence.

"It seems like she didn't..."

Both of their hearts are palpitating vigorously. They understand very well that even relaxing slightly could cause them to lose their lives.

In that instant, Li Yin abruptly sees that white figure appear behind Kexin's back!

"Ke... Ke, Kexin... B-Behind you..."

Li Yin's words almost shock Kexin to the extent that her heart stops! She quickly swivels around and looks, but there is nothing there. "You! What are you doing! Li Yin, do you want to scare me to death?!"

But just now, that white figure truly appeared behind Kexin.

This quiet forest seems to have become a horrible existence which threatens to engulf both of them. And they have to spend their three hours like this? They should first worry about suffering a mental breakdown before they even reach the apartment.

But they have to keep moving forward. Stopping here will be even more dangerous!

"Let's go! Kexin!" Li Yin grits his teeth tightly and continues walking forward with Kexin.

They cannot die!

They absolutely cannot die!

At this moment, every step they take feels as if they are walking on thin ice.

Luckily, for the large majority of the remaining time span, nothing unusual happens. This peaceful and quiet time continues on for about two more hours. They have already reached the area outside the mountain. If everything goes smoothly, they should arrive at the foot of mountain soon.

But as long as they are not in the apartment, there is nowhere in the world can be considered safe so they still cannot relax their wound-up nerves.

"Kexin..."

"What's the matter? Li Yin?"

Li Yin takes a deep breath and says, "If you can return alive... go confess to Xia

Yuan. At least, don't live your life with any regrets. Your feelings towards him are actually very deep, right?"

Kexin's face instantly turns red.

"Alright... I, I will consider it."

Finally, when they walk down to the foot of the mountain without any further complications. Li Yin sees their car. He initially worried that the car might have disappeared but now it seems like he was just overthinking.

After opening the car door, Li Yin retrieves his car key and inserts it into the car. Only when the car door open do both he and Kexin finally breathe a sigh of relief. Settling into the seat, Li Yin turns the ignition switch.

Kexin shuts the doors before buckling her seat belt.

The car starts up smoothly, causing Li Yin to feel somewhat surprised. He assumed that something would interrupt this process.

But... both of them did not notice that... on the back seat, a huge puddle of water has actually accumulated!

"So, you're here as well?"

City K, inside of the apartment.

At this moment, two people have gathered in the lobby on the first floor. They are surgeon Tang Lanxuan and the always gloomy Tang Wenshan.

In reality, according to their timing calculations, Li Yin and the other three will not return so soon. But Tang Lanxuan worries about them so much that he has difficulty sleeping. After waking up, he decided to just put on his clothes and come down to the ground floor to wait for them.

Tang Lanxuan is actually a bit surprised that Tang Wenshan is there as well.

But seeing that Tang Wenshan retains that gloomy expression as cold as frost, Tang Lanxuan does not anything and merely sits down on the sofa.

"Who knows... how many of them can return here?"

As worried thoughts run through Tang Wenxuan's mind, the elevator doors suddenly open and two more people walk out. They are the couple, Hua

Liancheng and Yi Wang.

“Ah, Liancheng, Yi Wang!” Tang Lanxuan stands up immediately and says, “You also couldn’t fall asleep and come down to wait for Li Yin and the rest?”

Hua Liancheng nods his head before Yi Wang says, “I am truly worried about the four of them... Especially Li Yin and Kexin. I hope at least both of them can return alive...”

These two people also sit down on the sofa so that the three of them can at least chat a little bit. Otherwise, the ambience is simply too depressing.

“Xia Yuan will probably also come down early to wait down here,” Tang Lanxuan looks at the clock hanging on the wall of the lobby and says, “The residential representative cares a lot about us.”

Although everyone says a few sentences, the depression in their hearts makes it difficult for them to continue talking about any topic. After a short while, the conversation will sink into silence. “They can definitely return alive,” Yi Wang says resolutely. “Definitely!”

Li Yin’s car will enter the city after passing just one more toll stand.

Driving along this road, Li Yin’s heart is on tenterhooks.

Don’t come out... at least, don’t come out right now...

And at this same time, five pale fingers begin to extend from that puddle of water on the backseat! But Li Yin and Kexin remain blissfully unaware.

Following this, an entire hand has already reached out. And then, another hand...

A hideous face filled with grudging hatred starts to float out of the water before that puddle of water starts to contract and form into the appearance of that female ghost.

But Li Yin and Kexin still do not notice.

Because her figure is not reflected in the rearview mirror of the car at all!

Contrary to normal ghost stories where the rearview mirror of the car usually serves to “remind” the drivers that there is a ghost behind them, in this case it

blinds them instead.

Then... her hand covered fully in water reaches towards Kexin who is concentrated only at looking towards the front...
